

Freedom of Information request 353-23

Request

I am just looking for information regarding the number of patients who have been classed as a failed discharge. I'm not sure if your Health Board uses this definition?

In short, I want to know if patients have been discharged and then subsequently readmitted in a short period of time. As such, can I request the following:

1. A breakdown of the number of patients who were classified as a failed discharge since 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023 or later [if this term is used] OR the number of patients who were discharged and then readmitted after 1 to 7 days with a breakdown for the same period.
2. The hospital and ward in which they were discharged and then admitted to.
3. The length of stay when readmitted.

Response

1. The number of NHS Borders patients who were classified as a failed discharge between 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023 is:

Cardiology	5
Gastroenterology	<5
General Medicine	144
General Surgery (excl Vascular, Maxillofacial)	23
Geriatric Medicine	24
Gynaecology	23
Haematology	<5
Paediatrics	35
Palliative Medicine	<5
Respiratory Medicine	<5
Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery	11
Total	277

2. The discharge ward and readmission ward information is (all Borders General Hospital):

Previous Admission Specialty	Readmission Specialty	
Cardiology	Cardiology	<5
Cardiology	General Medicine	<5
Gastroenterology	Gastroenterology	<5
Gastroenterology	General Medicine	<5
Gastroenterology	General Surgery (excl Vascular, Maxillofacial)	<5

General Medicine	Cardiology	<5
General Medicine	Gastroenterology	<5
General Medicine	General Medicine	120
General Medicine	General Surgery (excl Vascular, Maxillofacial)	5
General Medicine	Geriatric Medicine	9
General Medicine	Palliative Medicine	<5
General Medicine	Respiratory Medicine	<5
General Medicine	Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery	<5
General Surgery (excl Vascular, Maxillofacial)	General Medicine	<5
General Surgery (excl Vascular, Maxillofacial)	General Surgery (excl Vascular, Maxillofacial)	16
General Surgery (excl Vascular, Maxillofacial)	Geriatric Medicine	<5
General Surgery (excl Vascular, Maxillofacial)	Gynaecology	<5
Geriatric Medicine	General Medicine	6
Geriatric Medicine	Geriatric Medicine	9
Gynaecology	General Medicine	<5
Gynaecology	Gynaecology	22
Haematology	General Medicine	<5
Haematology	General Surgery (excl Vascular, Maxillofacial)	<5
Haematology	Haematology	<5
Paediatrics	Paediatrics	35
Respiratory Medicine	Cardiology	<5
Respiratory Medicine	General Medicine	6
Respiratory Medicine	Respiratory Medicine	<5
Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery	General Medicine	<5
Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery	Geriatric Medicine	<5
Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery	Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery	10
Urology	General Medicine	<5
Total		277

3. The total length of stay (in days) when readmitted is:

Readmission Specialty	
Cardiology	22
Gastroenterology	11
General Medicine	260
General Surgery (excl Vascular, Maxillofacial)	146
Geriatric Medicine	416
Gynaecology	10
Haematology	6
Paediatrics	32
Palliative Medicine	47
Respiratory Medicine	5
Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery	29
Total	983

As the number of events in some areas are very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **353-23** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.