

Freedom of Information request 395-23

Request

Please may I request the following information from your health board. For ease of collation, the information could be provided in the tables provided after each question.

1. The numbers total of patients who have been prescribed antidepressants in the each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 so far.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 so far |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Total patients prescribed antidepressants | | | | | | |

2. The number of patients under the age of 18 who have been prescribed antidepressants in each of the same years.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 so far |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Total patients under 18 prescribed antidepressants | | | | | | |

3. The total number of patients under the age of 18 prescribed each of the following types of antidepressants in each of the same years

| | Under 18s 2018 | Under 18s 2019 | Under 18s 2020 | Under 18s 2021 | Under 18s 2022 | Under 18s 2023 so far |
|--------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| SSRIs | | | | | | |
| SNRIs | | | | | | |
| NASSAs | | | | | | |
| TCA's | | | | | | |
| SARIs | | | | | | |
| MAOIs | | | | | | |

4. The number of patients under 18 who have been prescribed antidepressants in each of the same years, specifically as part of the treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and related symptoms.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 so far |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Total patients under 18 prescribed antidepressants as part of treatment for OCD | | | | | | |

5. The number of patients under 18 who have begun Talking Therapies ('psychotherapy') in each of the same years.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 so far |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Total patients under 18 begun talking therapies | | | | | | |

Antidepressants in this instance refers to any of the following classifications of drugs: SSRIs, SNRIs, NASSAs, TCAs, SARIs, MAOIs.

Response

1. The number of patients who have been prescribed antidepressants is:

| 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 20494 | 21195 | 20829 | 21913 | 22463 | 15819 |

2. The number of patients under the age of 18 who have been prescribed antidepressants is:

| 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 161 | 182 | 158 | 183 | 236 | 154 |

3. The number of patients under the age of 18 prescribed each of the following types of antidepressants is:

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| MAOI | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NASSA | 4 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| SARI | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| SNRI | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| SSRI | 129 | 145 | 132 | 158 | 220 | 143 |
| TCA | 30 | 36 | 25 | 21 | 17 | 10 |

4. This information is not held electronically. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.
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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 **395-23** 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.