

Freedom of Information request 403-23

Request

Regarding inpatients with learning disabilities and or autism, could you please provide the following information:

1. The total length of stay in days of the longest admitted person in your health board area who is currently;
 - i) admitted to a hospital-based assessment and treatment unit or any other NHS in-patient setting, including psychiatric wards
 - ii) has a diagnosed learning disability or a diagnosis of autism, or both
2. Please could you specify which of the above – or any other - settings they are in currently
3. Please could you specify whether they have a diagnosis of learning disability, autism or both
4. Can you please provide the longest case of delayed discharge in your health board area who has a diagnosed learning disability or diagnosis of autism or both. Please note I would like a response that simply states the number of days which this person has been delayed discharge, as of the date of this request.
5. Could you please provide the total length of stay in days of the longest admitted person who;
 - i) was transferred from your health board area to an in-patient setting in another part of the UK, including any private hospitals
 - ii) has a diagnosis of learning disability or autism or both
6. Please could you specify which of the above – or any other - settings they are in currently

Clarification

For questions 4 and 5, please can you let us know the date range you would like this information for – e.g. between 2020 and 2023 to date.

What the current data is and from 2018-2023.

Response

1. NHS Borders do not routinely collate information on whether patient has a learning disability or autism on our electronic patient system. This level of data may be held in a patient's paper 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.
2. This information is not held under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002.
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4. NHS Borders do not routinely collate information on whether patient has a learning disability or autism on our electronic patient system. This level of data may be held in a patient's paper 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.
5. This information is not held under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002.
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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 **403-23** 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.