

Freedom of Information request 414-23

Request

What are the waiting times from referral to treatment of hernia:

- i. Overall
- ii. Broken down by time waited for a first appointment with a consultant and then
- iii. Time waited to undergo an operation once a decision to treat has been made

Please provide this data broken down by year from 2018 to most recent data available.

Response

- i. & ii. NHS Borders does not routinely record a specific diagnosis electronically. Further, Outpatient and Inpatients waiting lists are recorded separately; the Inpatient wait only starts when a decision to treat is made and this may not be at the first Outpatient appointment. 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. Please note, there are in excess of 6600 patient records which may relate to Hernias.
- iii. The time waited to an Inpatient admission a Hernia procedure once a decision to treat has been made is:

YEAR	Completed Waits	Average (Weeks)	Minimum (Weeks)	Max (Weeks)
2018	143	10	1	26
2019	199	9	1	15
2020	71	15	2	45
2021	52	24	2	75
2022	102	47	1	149
2023 (to date)	52	47	2	161
Overall	619	21	1	161

Please note: only completed waits are included.

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 **414-23** 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.