

Freedom of Information request 415-23

Request

COVID-19 VACCINES

I am writing to you to ask what figure you have of confirmed or suspected injury caused by the vaccines within your health board?

I am aware the Yellow Card Scheme is the dedicated system set up to deal with this but, as it is self-reporting, I wanted to ascertain if assessments have been made by health professionals.

I would be grateful for any information you can provide to both inform the debate about vaccine injuries and to tackle misinformation.

Response

NHS Borders has 6 recorded cases of patients becoming unwell / injured due to the COVID-19 vaccination since the programme started in Oct 2021.

- <5 of these patients complained of symptoms at the clinic and an ambulance was called to provide an initial assessment before transferring them to Accident & Emergency at Borders General Hospital.
- <5 patients described symptoms but were not seen at the Borders General Hospital.

NHS Borders do not have any published information that can inform the debate about vaccine injuries or to tackle misinformation, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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 **415-23** 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.