

Freedom of Information request 469-23

Request

I am looking for information regarding the number of patients who have died whilst classified as a delayed discharge (a patient, clinically ready for discharge, cannot leave hospital because the other necessary care, support or accommodation for them is not readily accessible and/or funding is not available).

As such, can I request the following:

1. A breakdown of the number for the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24 (most recent).
2. How long each patient had been classified as a delayed discharge.
3. The hospital in which the patient was delayed and the cause of death.
4. Reason for delayed discharge.

Response

Please find below the number of NHS Borders patients who died whilst classified as a delayed discharge:

		2022'23		April to May 2023	
Location	Reason for Delay	Number of Deaths	Average Length of Delay (Days)	Number of Deaths	Average Length of Delay (Days)
Borders General Hospital	Assessment	<5	3	<5	5
	Waiting Residential Home	<5	28		
	Waiting Nursing Home	<5	53		
	Complex	<5	112		
	TOTAL BGH	8	48	<5	5
Hawick Community Hospital	Assessment	<5	12		
	Waiting Nursing Home	<5	11		
	Waiting Care Arrangements to go Home	<5	34		
	TOTAL HAWICK	<5	17		
Hay Lodge Hospital	Waiting Residential Home	<5	185		
	Waiting Nursing Home	<5	5		
	Waiting Care Arrangements to go Home	<5	33		
	TOTAL HAY LODGE	<5	57		

Knoll Hospital	Assessment	<5	26	<5	7
	Complex	<5	81		
	TOTAL KNOLL	<5	53	<5	7
OVERALL TOTAL				20	45
				<5	6

Source: TrakCare

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of deaths is very low, and to provide details of each patient's location, length of delay and cause of death could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018. We are therefore withholding all other data under Section 38(1)(d) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – as these details constitute personal data which would be held in the deceased person's health record. Also, 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 **469-23** 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.