

Freedom of Information request 478-23

Request

In accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

1. The number of people who have been referred to the health board for an assessment for autism who are currently waiting to be assessed.
2. Of those, the number of people broken down by the length of time in weeks that they have waited since being referred.
3. The estimated length of time a new referral for an assessment for autism would wait before being assessed, i.e. the current estimated waiting time.

Response

1. NHS Borders does not record electronically if a referral is specifically for an assessment of autism. With effect from March 2023 these types of referrals are recorded on our patient management systems under two categories – CAT 1 = Core Mental Health and CAT 2 = Neurodevelopmental; therefore, we are unable to extract autism referrals from our reporting system. This level of data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this would require a manual trawl of all referred patient's 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, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
3. This information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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 **478-23** 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.