

Freedom of Information request 519-23

Request

1. How many people are on the waiting list for an autism diagnosis?
2. What is the longest time someone has been on the current waiting list?
3. What is the current average time it takes from being placed on the waiting list to assessment?
4. How many full-time equivalent staff are currently employed in roles that can perform formal autism diagnoses?
5. How many requests were there for an autism diagnosis and how many assessments were carried out, for the years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023?

Where possible, please provide this information broken down into male and female, in the adult and under 18s categories, and by each Scottish region.

I would prefer not to receive the requested information in pdf format files. Please could you send me the requested information in machine readable formats such as CSV or Microsoft Excel.

Response

1. NHS Borders cannot give the number of patients on a waiting list for an Autism diagnosis as this data is not recorded on our electronic patient management system. 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.
2. NHS Borders cannot give the longest time someone has been on the waiting list for Autism as this data is not recorded on our electronic patient management system. 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.
3. NHS Borders cannot give the average time a patient has waited from being placed on the waiting list till assessment for Autism as this data is not recorded on our patient management system. 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.
4. NHS Borders Mental Health Service have 10.4 WTE staff who are employed in the roles that can perform formal Autism diagnoses.
5. NHS Borders cannot give the number of requests for an Autism diagnosis as this data is not recorded on our patient management system. 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.

As requested, this response is also attached in Excel format:



FOI 519-23 Response
Data.xlsx

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 **519-23** 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.