

4 October 2023

## Freedom of Information request 669-23

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### Request

1. How many physical attacks were made against staff? Please break these down by classification.
2. How many of those resulted in the police being involved?
3. How many of those resulted in charges or prosecution?

If you could provide the information for each of the last six years including the most recent data available from 2023/24 thus far.

### Response

1. The number of physical attacks against staff is:

Type of Incident	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Alcohol related aggression and violence	<5	8	5	<5	<5	<5
Physical Aggression by other	6	<5	8	<5	5	<5
Physical Aggression by patient	564	409	359	750	286	152
Use of weapon	6	<5	0	<5	<5	0

Please note: Above statistics have employees, including bank and locum categories selected.

2. The number of these attacks where police have been recorded as involved is:

Type of Incident	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Alcohol related aggression and violence	10	12	5	<5	<5	<5
Physical Aggression by other	<5	0	<5	<5	0	0
Physical Aggression by patient	30	28	25	131	26	<5
Use of weapon	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. This data is not held by NHS Borders. Information on the number of charges and prosecutions would be held by Police Scotland and therefore, please note under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere. For your information, please find a link to Police Scotland: [Freedom of Information - Police Scotland](#)

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](mailto: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 **669-23** 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.