

4 October 2023

## Freedom of Information request 682-23

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### Request

I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information in relation to long COVID services for adults and children in your health board:

1. What are the service provisions currently included in the long COVID service pathway for adults?
2. What are the service provisions currently included in the long COVID service pathway for children?
3. Is training and updated learning on long COVID currently being provided to clinicians in your health board? If so, please provide details of what is included in the training.
4. How much funding has been allocated to training and updated learning on long COVID in calendar years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 to date?

### Response

1. Engagement with all stakeholders is in process to identify a pathway for those with Long Covid symptoms within NHS Borders. Current provision is dependent upon clinical symptoms with onward referral to the appropriate medical speciality e.g. Respiratory Medicine.

A rehabilitative approach to symptoms is adopted from our Allied Health Professions (AHP) within out-patient/community services. Public Health provide support with the 'Well-Being Service' and from our Third Sector, including support from Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland to which patients can self refer.

2. NHS Borders does not have a dedicated Long Covid service for children. Children are referred directly from their GP/Paediatrician, with appropriate onward referral to existing services if required.
3. A dedicated clinician attends regular NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) Long Covid Network meetings, education sessions run by NSS and engages with other Boards in Scotland through shared learning opportunities. Learning is also shared with clinicians via a Teams channel. An AHP is available as source of advice and support for those working with Long Covid patients.
4. There is no dedicated funding allocated to Long Covid training however all clinicians have the ability and opportunity to apply for training relevant to their role.

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, 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 **682-23** 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.