

## Freedom of Information request 683-23

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### Request

For each financial year from 2018/19 to 2023/24 (most recent):

- the number of suspected cancer referrals received from NHS dentists
- the number of suspected cancer referrals received from private dentists

### Response

NHS Borders does not record if a referral has come in from an NHS Dentist or a private Dentist, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Under Section 15, Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Borders can provide the number of suspected Cancer referrals received from a Dentist:

2018-2019	11
2019-2020	14
2020-2021	13
2021-2022	19

Please note that since December 2021 referrals are made directly to NHS Lothian who see these patients on behalf of NHS Borders. Therefore, the information from December 2021 to most recent is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. However, please note, under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this data is accessible elsewhere. For your information, please find below a link to NHS Lothian:

[Freedom of Information \(FOI\) – NHS Lothian | Our Organisation](#)

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 **11-23** 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.