

10 October 2023

Freedom of Information request 684-23

Request

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

1. How many patients have contracted a hospital-acquired infection whilst classified as delayed discharge?
2. What was the infection?
3. How many patients have died in hospital after contracting a hospital-acquired infection whilst classified as delayed discharge?

Response

1. The information on patients who have contracted a hospital-acquired infection is recorded separately to patients who are classified as delayed discharge so a comparison of each data set would be required to identify patients appearing in both for the same dates. The Board calculates that the work required to provide the information would exceed the amount prescribed for responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Under Section 12(1) Excessive cost of compliance, of the Act, we are not obliged to provide you with the information.
2. This information is not held under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 as per Q1 we cannot identify the patients so are unable to provide data on the infection.
3. NHS Borders does not routinely collect outcome data on deaths in relation to healthcare associated infections. 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 please note National Records of Scotland (NRS) publish death data relating to MRSA and C.diff in hospitals which may be of interest. However, this data does not clarify if infections were healthcare associated or acquired in the community:-

[Clostridium Difficile \(C.diff\) Deaths | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://nrs.scot.nhs.uk/nrs/record/clostridium-difficile-deaths)

[MRSA Deaths | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://nrs.scot.nhs.uk/nrs/record/mrsa-deaths)

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.

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 **684-23** 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.