

Freedom of Information request 27-17

Request

I would like to request the following information please:

1. Are GP Out of Hours (OOH) Services within the footprint of your organisation commissioned and contracted centrally by NHS Borders or are the provision and contracting of these services up to the individual GP practices?
2. If the OOH services are commissioned and contracted by NHS Borders, who is the current provider of GP OOH services? (Please provide name)
3. How long is the current contract with this provider?
4. Over the past calendar year (Dec 2015 to Dec 2016), how much was spent by NHS Borders on GP OOH Services?
5. If some of your GP practices commission their own GP OOH services, which ones are currently doing this? (please identify, if possible, by Organisation Code)

Response

Borders Emergency Care Services is the local Primary Care Out-of-Hours Service provider in the NHS Borders area. This is a service **directly managed by NHS Borders** which employs a team of GPs and Out-of-Hours Nurse Practitioners who are supported by a team of Receptionists and Drivers.

Cover is provided by this service Monday to Friday from 18.00 - 08.00 hrs, and throughout the weekend from a Primary Care Emergency Centre (PCEC) based at Borders General Hospital. BECS covers 8 public holidays per year (including Christmas and New Year), which generally follow the NHS Borders public holiday dates.

The Out-of-Hours Service provides urgent care to patients who cannot wait until their own GP Surgery reopens. The team also provide medical support to the Community Hospitals in the Out-of-Hours period. Professional to professional advice is provided to nursing homes, pharmacists and paramedics.

BECS covers the whole of the Scottish Borders area. Patients from West Linton receive their medical care from Lothian Unscheduled Care Service however nursing care is provided by BECS.

Over the period December 2015 to December 2016 total spend in respect of Borders Emergency Care Services was £1,048,047.

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 **27-17** 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.