

## Freedom of Information request 50-17

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### Request

The number of NHS patients who have gone to another country in Europe to receive planned healthcare under the S2 scheme or Article 56 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (under the European Cross-border Healthcare Directive) in the last three years.

Could you please break this down by year, and country patient traveled to.

The cost to the health board of patients traveling to Europe for planned healthcare under the above mentioned scheme.

Again, could you please break this down by year, and country patient traveled to.

### Response

The number of patients claiming reimbursement under Article 56 over the past 3 years has been minimal 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. The costs and countries of treatment of those patients who have received reimbursement under Article 56 are noted in the table below.

Year	EU 56	Cost reimbursed	Countries of treatment
2015-16	<5	£3,384	Germany
2014-15	<5	£37	Germany
2013-14	<5	0	

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 **50-17** 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.

