

Freedom of Information request 53-17

Request

Please state the number of referrals for female breast reduction surgery made by NHS Borders.
Please provide information for the following calendar years.

-2014
-2015
-2016

Please state the number of female breast reduction surgeries carried out by NHS Borders.
Please provide information for the following calendar years.

-2014
-2015
-2016

Please state the number referrals for female breast reduction surgeries, made by NHS Borders but carried out elsewhere in the UK.

Please provide information for the following calendar years.

-2014
-2015
-2016

Please state the number of female patients refused breast reduction surgery by NHS Borders.

Please provide information for the following calendar years.

-2014
-2015
-2016

Response

1. NHS Borders refers patients requiring breast reduction surgery into NHS Lothian. The following criteria is used by Borders clinicians in making a referral - 'NHS Scotland Adult Exceptional Aesthetic Referral Protocol'. Where patients do not meet these criteria and are felt to have a clinical exception, support from NHS Borders Extra Contractual referral panel (ECR) can be requested. ECR approval does not necessarily mean the patient will be accepted for treatment by NHS Lothian, as patients are assessed by NHS Lothian on an individual basis. NHS Borders does not have a database in place that collects the number of patient referrals into this service as requested. The table below shows the number of patients who did not meet the criteria and support was requested from the ECR panel over the last 3 financial years, this data is not gender identifiable.

Breast Reduction or Mastopexy requests to NHS Lothian via ECR panel

Financial Year	ECR patients NOT meeting National criteria (Approved)	ECR patients NOT meeting National criteria (Refused)
2013/14	<5	
2014/15		<5
2015/16	<5	7

2. NHS Borders does not carry out breast reduction or enlargement surgery. Patients from the Borders are referred to NHS Lothian for this type of surgery.
3. Please see responses to 1 & 2 above.
4. Please see responses to 1 & 2 above.

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 **53-17** 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.