

Freedom of Information request 60-17

Request

For the current financial year (2016/17), or the most recent year for which data is available, please disclose -

How many actively employed consultants/academics are in receipt of a distinction/merit award payment through their salaries?

Please provide the breakdown as follows:

A+ = number

A = number

B = number

What is the cost to the health board in the current or recent financial year for each category?

What is the total cost to the health board in the current or recent financial year of these still active distinction/merit awards?

How many retired consultants/academics are in receipt of a distinction/merit award payment through their pensions?

Please provide the breakdown as follows:

A+ = number

A = number

B = number

What is the cost to the health board in the current or recent financial year for each category?

What is the total cost to the health board in the current or recent financial year of these retired distinction/merit awards?

Additionally, how many staff members are in receipt of discretionary points payments?

Please provide this broken down by the number in each category (1-8) and how many in each are still actively employed or retired? (e.g. Category 1 = 100 in total; 90 in employment, 10 retired)

For each category, 1-8, please also disclose the cost of each points band to the health board. If possible, please provide a breakdown on the cost by actively employed staff vs. retired staff (e.g. Category 1 – total cost £50k; £45,000 to current staff; £5000 to retired staff)

In addition to the individual figures, what is the total number and cost of discretionary points to the health board in the current or recent financial year?

Response

The Board made the following payments in relation to Distinction Award payments. The Board paid 'B' Distinction Awards in both 2015/16 & 2016/17 to Jan 17.

Financial Year	Amount of Distinction Award B	Number of Employees
2015/16	£37,152	2
2016/17 to Jan 17	£26,633	1

The Board has made the following payments in relation to Discretionary Points in 2015/16 and 2016/17 to Jan 17.

Discretionary Points	2015/16 Amount of Payment	2015/16 Number of Employees
1	£39,716	17
2	£25,620	7
3	£79,329	14
4	£64,080	9
5	£32,040	3
6	£86,508	6
7	£75,134	6
8	£212,682	13

Discretionary Points	2016/17 to Jan 17 Amount of Payment	2016/17 to Jan 17 Number of Employees
1	£33,322	17
2	£14,019	6
3	£52,982	10
4	£63,741	11
5	£42,720	7
6	£48,060	4
7	£71,957	5
8	£203,609	12

NHS Borders does not hold information on pension payments made to its former employees.

The above payments have been made to employees whilst they were in post within the Board i.e. not when they retired.

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 **60-17** 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.