

Freedom of Information request 66-17

Request

1. A list of which walking aids are available for patients from the health board;
2. Whether or not four-wheeled rollator walking frames are available for patients from the health board;
3. The total annual cost of walking aids to the health board for each of the past five years;
4. How many walking aids are currently 'missing' (i.e. have not been returned by patients) and the number for each of the past five years if available;
5. Whether or not the health board reuses walking aids which are returned?

Response

NHS Borders contracts with Scottish Borders Council Borders Ability Equipment Service (BAES) to supply all users with necessary equipment via clinicians. We have therefore provided data recorded by BAES but this will include data for both NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council.

1. Please find below a list of all walking aids available from BAES:

Dble Adj Crutch Comfort Handle - Left
Dble Adj Crutch Comfort Handle - Right
Lightweight 3 wheel loop brake
Domestic Frame with forearm rests
Arthritic Gutter Elbow Crutches (Pair)
Crutch - Child Adj 4 - 7 yrs
Crutch Child Adj 6 - 10 yrs
Adj Walking Stick - 28"-38"
Quadruped Small Based Adjustable Stick
Adj Wheel Trough Walker (Medium)
Adj Wheeled Trough Walker (Large)
Atlas Walking Frame - Pulpit
Adj Elbow Crutch - 90 - 119cm
Adj Elbow Crutch - 106 - 136cm
Comfy Grip Stick - Left
Comfy Grip Stick - Right
Uniscan Glider Plus 19"
Uniscan Glider Plus 21"
Uniscan Glider Plus 23"
Uniscan Glider Plus 25"
Lightweight Safety Walker
Zimmer Walking Frame (Small)
Zimmer Walking Frame (Medium)
Zimmer Walking Frame (Large)
Domestic Wheeled Walker Small
Domestic Wheeled Walker Medium
Domestic Wheeled Walker Large
Single Bariatric Crutch - XXL Rehab
Bariatric 4 wheel Rollator
Walking Stick HD Crook Handle
Folding Bariatric Walking Frame (non-wheeled)
Uniscan Grand Glider Plus Adj
Safety Walker up to 28 sts
Aluminium Safety Walker (up to 50 sts)

2. As listed above highlighted **bold**, 9 different sizes and styles of 4 wheels safety walkers / rollators are available.

3. Annual cost of walking aids supplied via BAES service as follows:

2016-17 (to date 20/02/17) - £32,382

2015-16 - £35,098

2014-15 - £37,975

2013-14 - £39,126

2012-13 - £32,802

4. Number of walking aids classed as 'irrecoverable' (unable to be traced) and value as follows:

2016-17 (to date 20/02/17) - 212

2015-16 - 273

2014-15 - 257

2013-14 - 150

2012-13 - 155

5. All items of equipment returned to the service, including walking aids, are processed through an exacting decontamination and refurbishment regime which identifies whether the items are of sufficient quality to enable their reuse. Items that are of sufficient quality are then reissued ahead of the issuing of brand new stock.

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 **66-17** 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.