

## Freedom of Information request 71-17

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### Request

I write to request the following information from NHS Borders:

1. How much money was spent on acupuncture services in the financial years 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16?
2. How many referrals for acupuncture services were made in each of those years (if possible, broken down by initial consultation and follow-up consultations)?
3. For which conditions were patients referred to acupuncture services in each of those years (with numbers per condition, if possible)?
4. Do you have a written policy on the funding of acupuncture services? If so, please provide a copy.
5. Do you have any contracts with acupuncture providers to whom you may refer patients? If so, please (i) confirm with whom you have contracts and (ii) provide copies of the contracts.

### Response

NHS Borders may provide Acupuncture as part of the services provided by Physiotherapy. The Board does not separately record when Acupuncture is delivered as part of the Physiotherapy service and as such costs are not held specifically for this.

Referrals are not received specifically for Acupuncture, this is part of the overall treatment plan.

Acupuncture is used in the treatment of pain by the Musculoskeletal Outpatient Physio Service, Occupational Health Physio Service and Chronic Pain Service.

There is no written policy on the funding of Acupuncture services.

NHS Borders does not commission Acupuncture from any other Health Board or external provider.

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 **71-17** 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.

