

Freedom of Information request 72-17

Request

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, we would be most grateful if you could provide the following information relevant to the management of your public open spaces:

- i. Does your local authority outsource any of the following services:
 - a. Grounds maintenance
 - b. Arboriculture/tree surgery
 - c. Any professional services related to open spaces such as landscape design, open space strategies, biodiversity plans or similar
 - d. Street cleansing
 - e. Winter services (non-highway) such as gritting and snow clearance
- ii. If so, could you please advise us:
 - f. The name of your current contractor/s
 - g. The start date and term of any contracts awarded with any available extension periods
 - h. The value of the contract
- iii. If you do not outsource any of these services, could you give us your approximate annual expenditure on the five services listed in (i) above.
- iv. Does your authority have a written policy for or against outsourcing these services?
- v. If it is your authority's policy not to outsource, is there written evidence that your authority would consider different relationships with the private sector, such as management contracts, joint ventures or not-for-profit arrangements?
- vi. Has your local authority commissioned any landscape construction works in the past 3 years?
- vii. If so, could you please advise us:
 - i. The names of your landscape construction contractors
 - j. The nature of the construction (hard, soft, civils)
 - k. The total value of the project

Response

NHS Borders do not hold this data on Local Authorities. This data may be accessible from Scottish Borders Council therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 we cannot provide.

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 **72-17** 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.