

## Freedom of Information request 119-17

### Request & Response

#### Question 1

- In the last 12 months, have you sub-contracted any surgical activity to non-NHS providers (e.g. providers such as Ramsay Health Care, Nuffield Health, BMI, Spire, Care UK)?

Yes.

#### Question 2

- If yes, which kind of private providers were used to undertake such services? Please select which apply and the name of the sub-contracted companies which were used

Type of provider	Provider type used? [Y/N]	Name of provider(s)
a. Private secondary hospitals	Y	Spire
b. Independent Sector Treatment Centre	N	
c. Mobile Operating Theatre (such as those provided by Vanguard Healthcare)	N	
d. Other [Please specify]	Y	Synaptik theatre team operating in local theatre.

#### Question 3

- Please indicate what was the main cause of the need to sub-contract activity (please allocate an approximate % if multiple reasons)

Cause	Approximate %
a. Reduce Trust waiting list	100%
b. Lack of available Theatre Capacity (theatres fully utilised)	
c. Lack of available Theatre Capacity (1 or more theatres not operational due to refurbishment etc.)	
d. Lack of available beds	
e. Lack of Consultants	
f. Other [Please specify]	

#### Question 4

- What were the major surgical specialities that were sub-contracted (e.g. Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology etc.)
  - If possible, please provide an estimated % split by speciality of total sub-contracted spend

Surgical speciality	Approximate spend %
1 Orthopaedics	92% (18 days of Synaptik @ £6K per day ex VAT- £129,540K inc VAT)
2 Gynaecology	8% (1 patient to Spire - £6,545)

### Question 5

- How much was spent by the Trust on sub-contracted surgical activity over the last 12 months?
  - Was this an increase, decrease or similar amount to the previous 12 months?
  - If possible, please provide an estimation of this increase/ decrease (as a %)

Sub-Question	Answer
Amount spent by the Trust on sub-contracted surgical activity over the last 12 months	£136,085
– Increase, decrease or similar amount to the previous 12 months	–£658655
– Estimation of this increase/ decrease (as a %)	–83%

### Question 6

- Do you currently have an operational Private Patient Unit?
  - If no, do you plan to open one in the next 12 months?

Sub-Question	Answer
· Do you currently have an operational Private Patient Unit?	No
– If no, do you plan to open one in the next 12 months?	No

### Question 7

- If no, what is the reason that you have not opened a Private Patient Unit to date (please allocate an approximate % if multiple reasons)?

Not applicable.

Reason	Approximate %
a. Lack of private patient population in region	
b. Not seen as a current priority as far as Trust strategy	
c. Lack of Trust capex to invest	
d. Lack of time to plan and build	
e. Concerned about the public relations impact of opening one	
f. Other (please specify)	

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 **119-17** 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.