

## Freedom of Information request 144-17

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### Request

1. The amount of cataracts out sourced by each health board for the complete previous 5 financial years and include whatever months have past in the current one. (separated on different tabs per year)
2. The name, address and contact details of the hospital/clinic or surgeon outsourced too
3. The value paid per procedure and the number of cataracts outsourced to each clinic/hospital or surgeon
4. If this could be split into months. (ie how many were outsourced per month), though make the first column the complete number outsourced, then split into months.
5. The individual/s responsible for making the decision; what hospitals are choose or where patients are referred.

### Response

1. The following table details the number of cataract operations delivered outwith NHS Borders and the Private Contractor used.

Financial Year	Q1 Apr-Jun	Q2 Jul-Sept	Q3 Oct-Dec	Q4 Jan-Mar
2012/13	0	0	0	0
2013/14	1 @ Spire Murrayfield Hospital, Edinburgh	1 @ Nuffield Health, Glasgow	5 @ Nuffield Health, Glasgow 1 @ Golden Jubilee, Glasgow	2 -@ Nuffield Health, Glasgow 5 @ Golden Jubilee, Glasgow 1 @ BMI, Ross Hall, Glasgow
2014/15	2 @ Golden Jubilee, Glasgow	0	0	0
2015/16	0	0	0	0
2016/17	0	0	0	0

2. The Board makes referral to the Private Contractors used as above however details of the specific surgeon who performs the surgery is not recorded by the Board. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 we cannot provide.
3. Referrals to Private Contractors can be made for a variety of procedures and invoices received cover all treatment provided. The finance system does not separately identify the costs of treatment provided and therefore this question cannot be answered as it would require a manual trawl of all Private Contractor invoices and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 therefore we are not required to provide.
4. Procedures referred to Private Contractors have been detailed in the table above, referrals are recorded by quarter by each financial year and the month of treatment is not held by the Board. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 we cannot provide.
5. The Board reviews internal capacity to deliver demand against required treatment target timescales, this is completed by the Senior Management Team with referrals to Private Contractors being made where in

house capacity is not available. The selection of Private Contractor is dependent on a number of factors including who can provide the treatment required, if they have the capacity to deliver the procedure in the required target timeline and also pricing.

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 **144-17** 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.