

## Freedom of Information request 158-17

---

### Request

The present request is made in the context of a comparative health economic study on the organization of laboratory services in Scotland and a series of other European countries as part of an EU-funded project on novel diagnostic tests and the improvement of antibiotic stewardship.

Could you please provide me with information applicable for 2015-16 on the following:

1. How is laboratory diagnostic work funded/reimbursed in NHS Borders?
2. Is (1) subject to a price-volume calculation? If No what arrangements are in place?
3. Is there a difference in the way diagnostic tests are funded if the test request originates not from secondary care but from primary care?
  - a) Would the GP practice be charged for the test request?
4. Please indicate which arrangement is used by the laboratory for accessing reagents and equipment :
  - a) Outright purchase of reagents and analysers
  - b) Re-agent rental agreement
  - c) Managed service contract
  - d) Other (please specify)
5. Is Point-of-Care testing (POCT) available in NHS Borders?
6. If yes in (5) how is the service funded? Is the Board charged every time the POC device is used?
7. Is CRP testing part of the laboratory's test repertoire?
8. If yes, what is the cost of (7)?
9. Is chemokine testing part of the laboratory's test repertoire?
10. If yes, what is the cost of (9)?

### Response

1. Annual Budget allocated by Finance Department from overall Health Budget from Scottish Government.
2. No.
3. There is no difference in the way diagnostic tests are funded if requested from secondary or primary care.
  - a) The GP practice would not be charged for the test.
4. At present it is a mixture of a, b and c and we are in the process of moving fully towards c.
5. Yes, in limited areas.
6. Part of agreed Annual budget, or individual units fund it themselves – we are not aware of the Board being charged per device use.

7. Yes.
8. This data is not held, therefore cannot be provided.
9. No.
10. Not applicable.

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 **158-17** 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.