

Freedom of Information request 171-17

Request

Could the health board provide how much was paid out in distinction/ merit awards and discretionary points awards in 2015-16 and 2016-17?

Could the health board include the number of individuals who received each award type, and their designation

Finally, could the health board provide the number of retired individuals who received such awards in 2015-16 and 2016-17, and how much was paid out.

Response

The Board made the following payments in 2015/16 and 2016/17

Financial Year	Discretionary Points	Distinction Award
2015/16	£615,108 (58 employees)	£37,152 (<5 employees)
2016/17	£635,028 (54 employees)	£31,959 (<5 employees)

The Board holds no information on the level of payments for Distinction Awards and Discretionary Points made to retired employees. Please contact the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) via their contact details given on their website www.sppa.gov.uk.

As the number of employees in some areas are very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

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 **171-17** 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.