

Freedom of Information request 259-17

Request

I would like to request information about the catchment areas for breast reconstruction procedures in Scotland.

I understand that 'free-flap'/free tissue' reconstructions (a type of specialist reconstruction utilising patient tissue, with no implant or prosthesis) are carried out only in the Lothian, Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Grampian, and Tayside health boards. Patients who live outside these areas and require 'free-flap'/free tissue' breast reconstructions are allocated to one of them to have their procedure. I have been instructed that these specialist procedures contracts/partnerships exist between all health boards in Scotland.

1. Could you tell me what 'types' of breast reconstruction (e.g. 'free-flap'/free tissue' reconstructions, implant/prosthesis reconstructions) Borders can provide to patients within the Borders health board?
2. Can you also tell me, if patients are sent outside of Borders for either type of reconstruction, to which health boards are they allocated?
3. If this is sometimes decided on a special circumstances or 'case by case' basis, please advise me how patients are generally allocated in normal circumstances.
4. Could you also advise me which hospitals within the Borders health board conduct 'free-flap'/free tissue' reconstructions?

Response

1. NHS Borders provide implant reconstruction and LD Flaps (Latismus Dorsi Muscle Flap). No 'free-flap' breast reconstructions are carried out in the Borders as we do not have the specialised equipment required to undertake this surgery.
2. NHS Lothian.
3. All Mastectomy patients are offered reconstruction unless contraindicated. Patients who opt for reconstruction are then evaluated and selection of method decided case by case. Anyone suitable for Free Flap or require special input from Lothian are then referred to St Johns Hospital.
4. None.

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 **259-17** 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.