

## Freedom of Information request 263-17

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### Request

1. I would be grateful if you would clarify if your health board (NHS Borders) does commission & fund Occipital Nerve Stimulation (ONS) for Intractable Chronic Migraine /severe refractory chronic migraine?
2. If not, what is your recommendation on how to proceed with a referral request and/or funding request for a patient in your area that has failed multiple acute & prophylactic drugs and / or botulinum toxin injections?
3. I would also like to know if NHS Borders health board has ever referred any patient with Intractable Chronic Migraine / Severe Refractory Chronic Migraine to any NHS Trust in England (such as NHS Leeds, Queen Square London, Guys and St. Thomas, Walton Centre Liverpool, NHS Birmingham etc) for assessment of potential ONS, and funding, in the last 15 years since headache surgery/neuromodulation has been performed in England?
4. Can you provide information on how many patients have been referred, how many were recommended for a stimulator, and how many had the procedure performed?
5. Has NHS Borders ever referred a patient to an NHS England board and then declined funding for an ONS (Occipital Nerve Stimulation) procedure?

### Response

1. NHS Borders would commission ONS for Intractable Chronic Migraine if there was a clinical need for a patient to receive this treatment.
2. The pathway for any patient requiring this treatment would be: BGH neurology referral, then onward referral to regional headache clinic (currently requiring Extra Contractual Referral to Glasgow or Newcastle as no Lothian headache clinic), and if ONS or other surgical intervention recommended by regional clinic, further local ECR for consideration of intervention. This involves the patients GP or consultant making an ECR request to NHS Borders. Following process the request is then reviewed by a clinical panel (ECR panel) where a decision will be made. The ECR requests are reviewed on an individual case by case basis.
3. NHS Borders has not referred any patients with chronic migraine for Occipital Nerve Stimulation (ONS).
4. As above.
5. As above.

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 **263-17** 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.