

Freedom of Information request 337-17

Request

I am writing to request the following information:

1. How many adults were sent "out of area" for mental health treatment in the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17?
2. Which NHS trusts and treatment centres were they sent to?
3. What was the amount spent on placing patients in out-of-area beds?

As guidance, here is a link to a similar request to NHS trusts in England by the British Medical Association: <https://www.bma.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/2017/june/bma-figures-show-startling-rise-in-mental-health-out-of-area-placements>

Response

NHS Borders aims to provide patient care within local services. Where necessary NHS Borders also commissions mental health services from NHS Lothian through various Service Level Agreements. The number of patients treated in NHS Lothian for all mental health inpatient services are shown below in table 1.

On occasion patients may need to receive inpatient mental health treatment from other NHS Scotland providers. The information provided in table 2 is nationally recorded data from NSS (National Services Scotland) Information Service Division Scotland (ISD) on out of area treatments for Borders residents excluding NHS Lothian.

In exceptional circumstances patients may need to receive mental health care from another provider outwith NHS Scotland. A manual trawl of invoices received for patients treated under Extra Contractual Referrals would be required but the cost of carrying out this work would be outwith the parameters of FOI legislation. Therefore under Section 12 of the FOI(S)A 2002 we are not required to provide this information.

table 1 - NHS Borders patients receiving Inpatient mental health treatment at NHS Lothian facilities

Board	2015/2016	2016/2017
	Adult	Adult
NHS Lothian	14	16
Average cost of activity each year	£162,343	£260,489

table 2 - NHS Borders patients receiving Inpatient mental health treatment at Other NHS Scotland facilities (Excluding NHS Lothian)

Board	2015/2016	2016/2017
	Adult	Adult
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	0	0
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	0	0
NHS Fife	<5	0
NHS Forth Valley	<5	<5
NHS Grampian	0	0

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	<5	<5
NHS Highland	0	0
NHS Lanarkshire	0	0
NHS Tayside	<5	0
Total number mental health Inpatients	8	5

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 **337-17** 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.