

Freedom of Information request 355-17

Request

This is a Freedom of Information enquiry:

1. What is the patient list capacity for each of the Public Service Dentist Surgeries in Scottish Borders?
2. What is the current number of patients registered with each of the Public Service Dental Service surgeries in Scottish Borders?
3. How do NHS Borders make potential patients aware of available spaces on each surgery's list?
4. What are the criteria used to determine the size of each list and which patients are chosen to join a list?
5. Are there any plans to extend the service to meet demand if it exceeds supply?
6. Which of the surgeries have generated a surplus in each of the years since the setting up of the service?
7. Given that remuneration for dental treatments are paid at the same rate to both Public Service dentists and private practice dentists but the former at paid only a salary what is the policy of NHS Borders on the use of any surplus generated by the Public Dental Service?

Response

1. This is dependent on the variety of treatment carried out and by the needs of individual patients. Patients are registered with the Public Dental Service and not individuals.
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No of Patients registered at sites as follows:

Hawick Dental Centre: 6753

Galashiels and Haylodge Dental Centres: 2245

Kelso Dental Centre: 2712

Coldstream Dental Centre: 5011

3. The Public Dental Service (PDS) does not accept patients in areas where general dental practices have capacity to provide NHS General Dental Services unless a patient has additional needs. Patients can obtain information about NHS Borders PDS from the website – NHS Borders Dentists at www.nhsbordersdentists.scot.nhs.uk ;
Or contacting the Dental Enquiry Line (telephone line) which is available for unregistered patients with dental pain/problems and for dental information;
Or by telephoning NHS Borders Dental Centres.
4. The PDS does not accept patients in areas where general dental practices have capacity to provide NHS GDS unless a patient has additional needs. Patients complete a Dental Needs Assessment form which is assessed by a Senior Dentist. A General Dental Practitioner, a GP or another health professional can make a referral into the PDS. The PDS also accepts referrals through the Childsmile and Caring for Smiles programmes. Patient who are medically compromised and have additional needs will be given the highest priority.
5. Not currently. Scottish Government mainly fund the PDS and any changes are dependent on national policy.

6. The PDS is not a profit making concern. Patients who pay for treatment pay 80% of the total NHS cost. This money is set against the annual budget set by Scottish Government. Some types of treatment offered by the PDS delivered in secondary care are free at point of delivery to patients.
7. No surplus is generated.

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 355-17 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.