

## Freedom of Information request 369-17

### Request

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 I would like to request the following:

The number of cancer patients who have had to travel to another health board area for treatment in the last three years.

Please include the health board they are/were required to travel to, and the reason - for example, to undergo radiotherapy.

Could this please include the most up to date figures, and a year-by-year breakdown of the required time frame.

### Response

NHS Borders aims to provide patient care within local services. Where necessary NHS Borders also commission's cancer services from NHS Lothian as the main provider of care through various Service Level Agreements in place. The number of patients treated in NHS Lothian is not identifiable for each year requested from the data received from NHS Lothian. Therefore the patients identified in table 1 below shows the volume of patient contacts and not the number of patients.

On occasion patients may need to receive cancer treatment from other NHS providers in both Scotland & England and the volume of these patient contacts is detailed in the table 2.

In exceptional circumstances patients may need to receive cancer treatment 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) we are not required to provide this information.

Table 1

PROVIDER NAME	SPECIALTY DESCRIPTION	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
NHS Lothian	Medical Oncology - Adult	456	756	626
NHS Lothian	Medical Oncology - Children	48	76	101
NHS Lothian	Radiotherapy - Adult	1,463	1,487	1,484

Table 2

PROVIDER NAME	SPECIALTY DESCRIPTION	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
NHS Cumbria	Clinical Oncology	19	14	5
NHS Cumbria	Gynaecological Oncology	<5	<5	
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Allograft Bone Marrow Transplant		<5	<5
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Anthony Nolan	<5	5	
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Clinical Oncology	<5	8	17
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Medical Oncology	6	25	<5
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	PET Scan	<5		
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Stem Cell Collection		<5	<5
NHS Newcastle	Clinical Oncology (prev. Radiotherapy)	23	20	11
NHS Newcastle	Medical Oncology	11	10	26

NHS Northumbria	Clinical Oncology (prev. Radiotherapy)	56	73	28
NHS Northumbria	Gynaecological Oncology		<5	<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](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 **369-17** 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.