

## Freedom of Information request 391-17

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### Request

In the past five years, how much money has your health board spent on purchasing crutches for patients. Could this please be broken down by year?

In addition, if it's available, could you provide guidance given to hospitals and staff about what patients should do with crutches once they are finished with them. eg, are they to return them to the health board, or dispose of them?

### Response

NHS Borders spent a total of £19,117 on crutches for patients over the last 5 years. Unfortunately we are unable to break down this total by year.

The provision of crutches is managed by the Community Equipment Service ([Scottish Borders Council](#)) who may be able to provide further data and guidance as requested. Therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.

NHS Borders advise patients is to return crutches to their nearest health centre or hospital when no longer required. These are then returned to the Community Equipment Service who will check and clean them, then all suitable crutches will re-enter circulation.

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 **391-17** 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.