

Freedom of Information request 16-18

Request & Response

You supplied information stating funding for: cancer; CVD/Stroke; mental health; public health and NHS Need. I understand that this is funding from external funders (like the Wellcome Trust) and then CSO funding to your board supports this.

This statement is incorrect, the figures supplied for the previous FOI request detailed funding from the CSO that was used to support our involvement in studies in these different clinical areas.

1. What active decisions do you make with regards to which projects take place with your staff on your premises utilising CSO funding? Is it first come first serve? Do you have a decision board or panel? Can you give information on their decision criteria. Or do you just never turn any projects away?

NHS Borders has a Research Governance Committee. As part of its remit, the Committee reviews all projects where NHS Borders has been identified as a site. It is expected that staff will have been approached to seek their interest and support for the research prior to this review, and the remit of the Committee is to ensure that the necessary resources are in place to support the research. If a research project is rejected by the Committee, the researcher/sponsor will be informed by letter and have the right to appeal the decision.

2. What influence does the CSO have on these externally funded projects that the CSO Board funding is used for?

The CSO has no influence on how NHS Borders decides whether to be involved in research studies other than our obligations under our service level agreement with them to support eligible studies. The CSO funding is based on the previous financial year's research activity.

To illustrate this question I want to give you an example. Say the CSO gives you £1000 for a year of board funding, you then 'host' a cancer project with externally funding of £40, a CVD/Stroke for £30, a mental health for £10 and a Public Health one for £20. So by % that is cancer accounted for 40% of the external funding, CVD/Stroke 30% etc.

- a) How reasonable is it to use this % to calculate how the CSOs funding was used? (In this example is it reasonable to say that £400 (40% of £1000) of the CSO funding went to 'research' or to support research for cancer, £300 for CVD/Stroke etc)

It is not possible to use a percentage calculation as suggested. Research activity in areas can vary over a period of time and funding depends on the amount of support required. Complex clinical trials require more support than studies which involve questionnaires only.

- b) Does one or other of these 5 health categories typically use up more of the CSOs funding than another?

At present cancer research receives more funding as it is the most active area of research within NHS Borders. It also has a higher proportion of clinical trials to other areas, therefore requires support from various services such as radiology, pharmacy and the laboratory. There is also a dedicated research nurse in this area.

- c) Given your knowledge of your Board and the research how would you calculate how CSOs funding was used by illness if not as in 'a'

The SLA details how CSO funding can be used. The calculations were shown in the expenditure report previously provided.

- d) If 'a' is unreasonable please send me a spreadsheet showing how CSO funding was used by category (cancer, CVD/Stroke etc) for 2011-2017

This information was previously provided for FOI 440-17. Therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this information is accessible elsewhere.

3. What is the year end for the CSOs board funding to you?

The year end is 31 March 2018.

4. How do they determine the following years funding?

Under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held by NHS Borders.

5. You sent the CSO's Research Activity and Expenditure report. Please will you send me a copy from the latest year of any other documentation that you send to the CSO.

Please find attached below a copy of our 6 month expenditure return to the CSO:



CSO Research 6
Month Expenditure R

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 **16-18** 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.