

Freedom of Information request 131-18

Request

- The number of public relations, media and press officers/staff employed by the health board.
- The amount of money the health board has spent paying the salary of these staff in the last three years. Could you please break this down by year, and if possible by each individual. If you cannot reveal the name of the individual this is understandable, however, it would be preferable.
- The amount paid in pension contributions to public relations, media and press staff in the last three years. Again, could you break this down by year and individual.

Response

NHS Borders employs <5 staff members with responsibility for public relations, media and press office.

The following are the pay and pension costs incurred by NHS Borders on public relations, media and press officers.

Financial Year	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Gross Pay Costs	£85069	£76473	£59515
Employer Pension Costs	£11878	£11395	£8754

Gross Pay Costs are before deductions for the employee's income tax, national insurance and pension contributions.

Pension costs are those incurred by NHS Borders payable to the Scottish Public Pensions Agency for the NHS Superannuation Scheme and the alternative workplace pension scheme available to NHS Borders employees - the NEST Corporation Pension Scheme.

Individual job title and associated costs are not provided within this FOI as the number of staff is very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#)

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 **131-18** 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.