

Freedom of Information request 166-18

Request

I would like to request the following detail from NHS Borders under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Please provide statements for all purchase cards, 'p-cards', or any other credit or debit cards paid out using public funds, used by or for executive directors for the period April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2017. Please also provide receipts for these expenses.

2. Please also provide details of all spending by executive directors using their own money which is then then claimed back from public funds for the period April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2017. Please also provide receipts for these expenses.

3. Please also provide details of all spending on behalf of that individual, by the trust, for the period April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2017. Please also provide receipts for these expenses.

Such purchases might include, but are not restricted to, costs associated with private car use (eg mileage, care hire costs); public travel (e.g, train, bus, air fares); subsistence, (e.g. meals whilst away from normal place of work and hotel costs); spending on properties including purchase costs, rent, upkeep and refurbishment costs.

I recognise that this may overlap with material that you publish online but please note that I am asking for a level of detail which goes beyond this, so there is no argument that the material is already publicly accessible.

Please provide the above information for all executive directors for this time period. If this exceeds the cost limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide this information for as many executive directors as possible before the cost limit is reached, in this order of preference:

Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Chief Finance Officer
Chief Operating Officer
Medical Director
Commercial Development Director
Business Development Director
Strategic Director
Chief Nursing Officer
Director of Development
Director of HR
Director of Communications

And then all other Executive Directors.

I recognise that job titles vary between organisations so please find the closest possible comparator for those which I have named. If one of the roles I have stated do not exist in your organisation please omit them and move on to the next one in the list.

Again, please note that if it is possible within financial constraints, I would like the details for all executive directors - so the above list should not be necessary.

If more than one person has held a post during this time, please provide the information for both of those people.

Response

1. NHS Borders has no credit or debit cards that are used to pay for expenses. There is one Corporate Credit Card, managed by the Head of Procurement, but this card is not used for expenses claims.
- 2&3. The attached spreadsheet below provides information on the level of reimbursement made for business travel, subsistence and accommodation by Executive Directors of the NHS Borders Board for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2017. All expenses are processed through the NHS Scotland eExpenses system.



Exec Directors
Expenses Analysis 20

Receipts are not held electronically. To provide this information would require a manual trawl of paper records and the cost to complete this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 therefore we are not required to provide.

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 **166-18** 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.