

Freedom of Information request 215-18

Request

I would like the information to cover the past three financial years and to be broken down by year (2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18).

I would like to know the cost to the health board in covering taxi fares taking patients to and from health facilities, including hospitals, for treatment and appointments.

I would like to know how many individual taxi journeys were paid for by the health board to take patients to and from hospital for treatment and appointments.

I would like to know the range in value of these individual taxi fares from the highest to the lowest.

Response

Taxi spend incurred by the Board for the period requested is shown below:

- 2015/16 - £214,143
- 2016/17 – £195,304
- 2017/18 - £210,793

The information for this FOI has been extracted from the Board's Finance System. NHS Borders use taxis for a variety of reasons. This can include patient transport, transfer of equipment, urgent transportation of laboratory samples, x-rays from radiology and patient case notes.

The information contained on the invoices from the taxi companies does not distinguish the reason for transportation. Therefore under section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this information is not held.

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 **215-18** 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.