

Freedom of Information request 250-18

Request

1. The cost of hospital equipment distributed to patients for their use at home, broken down by equipment type, for each of the last five years
2. The total number of each of equipment type distributed to patients, in each of the last five years
3. The total number of the items distributed that are returned to the hospital by patients in each of the last five years
4. The value of equipment patients return, broken down by item type in each of the last five years
5. Of the items of equipment returned in each of the last five years, the percentage of each type that is disposed of and the percentage that is recycled or reused
6. Whether the health board area has a central collection point for the return of equipment distributed to patients for home use.

Clarification Received:

The request is referring to any hospital equipment that is distributed to patients that could reasonably be expected to be re-used, for example, crutches, commodes, mobility aids such as zimmer frames, wheelchairs etc.

It doesn't include single use equipment, for example, injection equipment, tubigrips, moonboots etc.

Response

- 1-5 The Community Equipment Service is jointly commissioned by Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders with a shared budget. Equipment is distributed to both NHS patients and Social Care clients. We do not separately define any equipment as 'Hospital Equipment and it is therefore not possible to identify the cost of hospital equipment distributed to patients for their use at home, broken down by equipment type, for each of the last five years. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
6. The Community Equipment Service operates a central collection point out of its premises in Tweedbank. In addition, a pickup service is provided where any unused equipment will be collected from the patient's home.

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 **250-18** 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.