

Freedom of Information request 278-18

Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding C-Reactive Protein (CRP) testing and pathology services at NHS Borders.

I appreciate your time assisting with the response. I would be grateful if you could respond to me with the answers to the questions below via email.

1. Please provide details regarding how your health board is reimbursed for the clinical testing service you provide (e.g. on a block contract basis, or based on an average price per test overall, an average price per test by speciality such as biochemistry & immunology, or a specific price per test)
2. Please advise the cost of each CRP test in your board. If a specific cost per test is not available, please provide an estimate of the total reimbursement amount you receive for CRP tests per period (month/year) and the volume of CRP tests carried out in your lab (month/year).
3. Does your board's pathology service currently have the in-house capability to measure CRP concentrations below 3mg/L?
4. If the answer to Question 3 is yes, how are the high-sensitivity CRP tests conducted (e.g. through different calibration of the analyser, or using premade high-sensitivity CRP kit)?

Response

1. NHS Borders Laboratory has a fixed annual budget and is not reimbursed on a per test basis.
2. NHS Borders do not hold data on the total reimbursement amount received for CRP tests, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 we cannot provide. We currently carry out approx 3250 CRP tests per month.
3. No.
4. Not applicable.

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 **278-18** 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.