

Freedom of Information request 330-18

Request

1. How much money has your health board spent dispensing methadone over the past three years? Could this please be broken down by year.
2. How much money has your health board spent giving out drugs paraphernalia (such as spoons and syringes) and how many of these items were given out, over the past three years? Could this be broken down by i) year and ii) item type.

Response

1. The cost of dispensing methadone is in the public domain up to 2016-17 at the following link: <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/media/1515/drug-prescribing-scotland-2016-17.xlsx>. An update is due to be published in August 2018.

The cost of drug prescribing for each month is available on this link from April 2017

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Prescribing-and-Medicines/Community-Dispensing/>

Therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.

2. Please see costs for dispensing injecting equipment below for previous three years:

Year	Costs
2017-18	£21,645.30
2016-17	£20,592.68
2015-16	£16,067.14

The table below shows a breakdown of items dispensed at Injecting Equipment Providers. The reason for reduction in filters in 2017/18 is because spoons are now provided with filters.

Item	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Syringes	53,851	62,863	60,787
Water	16,177	21,548	15,530
Wipes/Swabs	51,546	68,121	63,802
Foil	-	34,387	15,163
Spoons	47,417	50,859	55,143
Citric Acid	51,276	47,072	51,130
Filters	67,943	57,770	25,878
Sharps Bins	4,723	5,178	5,841

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 **330-18** 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.