

Freedom of Information request 611-18

Request

From April 2011 prescriptions charges were abolished in Scotland. For 2011/12 and each subsequent year, please detail the cost of free prescriptions within the Board's Drugs and Medical Supplies expenditure and the budget for 2018/19.

Response

NHS Borders do not hold this level of cost, prescriptions are no longer recorded as being exempt/free. Under Section 15 of the FOI(S)A 2002 duty to provide advice and assistance we can provide data on the Primary Care drug spend for the years requested:

Financial Year	Spend £
2011/12	21,041,761.24
2012/13	20,425,421.94
2013/14	20,972,275.01
2014/15	22,565,413.87
2015/16	24,095,810.64
2016/17	25,854,093.91
2017/18	26,201,525.59
2018/19 Budget	24,431,722*

*From a paper presented to Medicines Resource Group Feb, 2018-12-03

Further information on prescription costs is available at the following link:

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Prescribing-and-Medicines/Publications/index.asp>

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 **611-18** 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.