

## Freedom of Information request 623-18

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### Request

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please could you tell me:

1. Whether cervical screening services are available in GUM/sexual health clinics in your area? Please indicate from the following list:
  - a. All women can access cervical screening through sexual health services.
  - b. Some women are able to receive their on an opportunistic basis (if so, please specify which group/s of women).
  - c. Women are unable to receive cervical screening at sexual health services in our area.
2. If all women are able to access cervical screening at GUM/sexual health services, how is this advertised?
3. How many women have had cervical screening samples collected at GUM/sexual health services each year since 2010/11?
4. How much has been spent on providing cervical screening in GUM/sexual health services in each year since 2010/11?

### Response

1. Some women are able to receive their cervical smear on a drop-in basis.

Please find below the following reasons women access cervical screening at clinics:

- Cervical smears are offered to women attending for other reasons: Overdue for routine smear and unable/unwilling to attend GP.
  - Not registered with a GP
  - Previous problems attending GP for smear
  - HIV positive attending for care
2. NHS Borders do not advertise the availability of cervical screening at the sexual health service, however all women who attend the Sexual Health Clinic can request cervical screening.
  3. The number of cervical smears recorded by year are:

2010	91
2011	174
2012	201
2013	206
2014	187
2015	198
2016	173
2017	132
2018	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>1512</b>

4. We are not able to quantify the cost of providing cervical screening as it constitutes a very small part of sexual health service activity. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data 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](mailto: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 **623-18** 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.