

Freedom of Information request 43-19

Request

1. Information on the number of individuals affected by alopecia by a) gender, b) age, over the last 5 years broken down by year.
2. Information on the main causes of alopecia within the health board – for example as a result of stress, cancer treatment, or a more permanent issue such as male-pattern baldness etc.
3. Information on the number of individuals who have been prescribed a) a synthetic wig, b) a real hair wig as a result of alopecia over the last 5 years, broken down by year and gender.
4. Information on the cost of a) synthetic wigs and, b) real hair wigs to the health board over the last 5 years, broken down by year.

Response

1. There are currently 134 individuals affected by alopecia recorded by NHS Borders (as recorded over the last 2 years). Information on gender and age are not recorded. This information may be held in a patient's notes but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002, therefore we are not required to provide.
2. NHS Borders do not collate this information routinely or hold it electronically. This may be available in a patient's notes but this would require a manual trawl of all records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002, therefore we are not required to provide.
3. Information on the number of individuals who have been prescribed wigs are:

Year	Number of Human hair wigs	Number of Acrylic wigs
2018/19	8	72
2017/18	5	24
2016/17	7	Not recorded
2015/16	9	Not recorded
2014/15	13	Not recorded

4. Please find below the amount spent on wigs by NHS Borders over the last 5 years. We are unable to identify the type of wig as this is not recorded electronically and to extract this information would require a manual trawl of paper invoices and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 therefore we are not required to provide:

- 2014 - £43,708.27
- 2015 - £47,740.25
- 2016 – £48,272.09
- 2017 - £46,642.42
- 2018 - £38,104.80

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 **43-19** 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.