

Freedom of Information request 65-19

Request

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (2002).

1. Your most up to date policy on the use of video conference calls for consultant post interviews.
2. The number of video interviews conducted for consultant posts in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.
3. Your most up to date policy on reimbursing consultant candidates for travel costs related to travelling to their interview from a) within the UK and b) from overseas.
4. The total spent in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 reimbursing consultant candidates for costs related to travelling to their interview from a) within the UK and b) from overseas.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of video interviews				
Total spend for UK based travel costs (£)				
Total spend for overseas travel costs				

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act I understand that I can specify the format that the information takes. For questions 2 and 4 provide the information using the table above as an indicative format.

Response

NHS Borders' position is that we would agree to the use of video conference facilities for consultant interviews if the Chair of the Panel and the independent External Panellist give approval.

Our position is that we reimburse consultant candidates for travel costs related to travelling to their interview from within the United Kingdom or port of entry within the UK and we do not reimburse travel from overseas.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of video interviews	0	1	1	1
Total spend for UK based travel costs (£)	This information is not recorded, when travel expenses are paid there is no differentiation between business travel and travel expenses to attend interview. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this information is not held.			
Total spend for overseas travel costs	0	0	0	0

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 **65-19** 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.