

Freedom of Information request 189-19

Request

I would be grateful if you could provide a schedule showing the following information for each month between January 2018 and March 2019 inclusive:

- 1) how many NHS patients were treated in private health care premises in each month, whether by an NHS or private doctor
- 2) the cost to your health board's budget of using private health care premises to treat patients in each month
- 3) if available, the number of patients for which you have used private health care providers in England for treatment in each month and the cost

I hope this request is clear that I am not interested in those patients who have elected to pay for private health care out of their own pockets, but rather those for whom you provided NHS-funded treatment in the premises of an independent healthcare provider.

Response

The information provided in this response has been extracted from the finance system. The finance system does not record patient details as part of a payment to an external provider. The following activity data has been provided by the waiting times team within NHS Borders and the financial information related to the total payments made to the provider at March 2019.

1. Please find below the number of patients treated in private health care premises each month between January 2018 and March 2019:
 - January 2018 – 3
 - February 2018 – 20
 - March 2018 – 27
 - April 2018 – 2
 - May 2018 – 1
 - June 2018 – 0
 - July 2018 – 0
 - August 2018 – 0
 - September 2018 – 0
 - October 2018 – 2
 - November 2018 – 5
 - December 2018 – 0
 - January 2019 – 0
 - February 2019 – 18
 - March 2019 – 23
2. NHS Borders are unable to provide this data broken down by month but under Section 15 Duty to provide advice and assistance the total payments made to providers over this period was £329,616.

3. Please find below the number of patients treated in England by month:

- February 2019 – 18
- March 2019 – 22

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 **189-19** 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.