

Freedom of Information request 236-19

Request

In NHS Borders' annual accounts for 2017/18 it set out the expenditure levels for Independent Primary Care Services, broken down by General Medical Services; Pharmaceutical Services; General Dental Services; and General Ophthalmic Services. In other words, detailing the expenditure on private contractors providing GP, pharmacy, dental and eye care which is free at the point of use.

Figures are given for 2017 and 2018. In older versions of the annual accounts the information is categorized differently, often referred to as 'Family health', and figures not comparable. In order to ensure comparable information, I therefore I would like to ask:

For each of the last five years available, how much as the health board spent on independent Primary care services (independent contractors) providing each of the following services: a) General Medical Services; b) Pharmaceutical Services; c) General Dental Services; and d) General Ophthalmic Services.

Response

The following table details the annual spend reported by NHS Borders on Independent Contractors:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
GMS	£16.654m	£16.758m	£17.207m	£17.926m	£18.554m
GOS	£1.592m	£1.643m	£1.754m	£1.719m	£1.786m
GPS	£25.816m	£27.062m	£29.722m	£29.341m	£28.695m
GDS	£8.424m	£8.841m	£8.855m	£8,662m	£8.774m

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 **236-19** 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.