

Freedom of Information request 384-19

Request

I hope this email finds you well. Dr Anne MacDonald's "Coming Home" report is one which highlights issues surrounding Out-of-Area Placements in Scotland and details key recommendations for this to be resolved. As a charity, we are keen to support work which will fulfil outcomes related to this report.

We are looking to understand the concentrations of out of area placements by health board in Scotland.

1. How many residents from the Borders area are currently residing in out of area placements?
2. How many of these are outside of Scotland?
3. Finally, what is the annual financial cost of out of area placements for Borders?

Clarification Received:

- Is it ALL out of area placements or is it for a particular service such as Mental Health or Learning disabilities?
 - Can we please have all out of area placements and then how many of those are Mental Health.
- For clarity, is it for placements that the residency would be considered the patient's ongoing home or is it for placements in an out of area hospital where the patient will require longer periods of treatment but the placement would not be seen as the patient's ongoing residency or both?
 - Can we have both please

Response

NHS Borders aims to provide patient care within local services where at all possible. Where necessary NHS Borders may need to commission care from other providers out with the local area. This includes specific requirements of care for patients needing inpatient placements for services such as mental health or learning disabilities. The volume of patients requiring these specific placements is low in number compared to the cost of the placements which can be significantly high. Placements in Scotland and the rest of the UK are considered, this is depending on the patient's specific needs and availability of beds.

The tables below show the anticipated cost to NHS Borders for 2019/20 for these out of area placements. Some of these services are jointly funded with the local council and the cost to the council is not included.

Borders patients residing out of area	No. Of Borders patients currently at July 2019 residing in out of area placements	No. Of Borders patients currently at July 2019 residing in out of area placements Not within Scotland	Anticipated annual cost of placement for 2019/20 £000
Learning disabilities main residency	12	<5	742
Learning disabilities NOT main residency	<5	<5	1465
Mental Health NOT main residency	<5	0	300
Continuing care placements main residency	<5	0	59
Totals	20	7	2566

Table based on known placements July 2019

As the number of events in some areas are very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

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 **384-19** 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.