

## Freedom of Information request 388-19

---

### Request

Under The Freedom of Information Act I would like to request all correspondence, documents and minutes relating to patients attending hospitals or services as a result of problems/complications/emergency admission – including but not confined to sepsis and infections – resulting from cosmetic and or plastic surgery performed privately in clinics and hospitals in the UK and abroad.

Including any reference to or research on the number of patients affected.

Including any letters sent from doctors and clinicians to private clinics and practitioners.

And any reference to the cost to the NHS or your health Board (of picking up such emergency cases).

The timescale for my request/search is January 2018 to August 2019.

Clearly this is quite a broad search but I would ask you to do an electronic search to minutes and emails relating to staff in A and E and cosmetic/plastic surgery specialisms applying certain key words including private cosmetic surgery.

### Response

NHS Borders do not routinely collect or record this level of data on our electronic patient management system therefore this would only be recorded in a patient's notes if there were any. To extract any data held would require a manual search of all paper records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore we are not required to provide.

There are no recorded emails or minutes held relating to A&E staff and cosmetic/plastic surgery specialisms.

Under Section 15 Duty to provide advice and assistance we can confirm that the A&E Consultants are not aware of any cases and have never attended a meeting in relation to complications arising from cosmetic and or plastic surgery performed privately in clinics and hospitals in the UK and abroad.

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](mailto: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 **388-19** 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.