

Freedom of Information request 391-19

Request

I'd like to ask about money received and spent as part of the Scottish Government's Waiting Times Improvement Plan announced last October.

Please could you tell me:

1. How much money your board has so far received as part of the waiting times plan?

Could you then also tell me:

2. How much has been spent and how that money was spent and in which areas of medicine? (for example, £x spent on wages for NHS staff doing extra weekend neurology clinics, £x on independent sector carrying out hip replacements).
3. If independent sector providers have been used, please specify which one(s).
4. Could you also then say how much waiting times have reduced?

Response

1. NHS Borders has received a total of £1,782,750 to date as part of the Waiting Times allocation.
2. For the period 01/04/2019–30/09/2019 NHS Borders has agreed to spend the following from the Waiting Times allocation:
 - Breast - £73,000 – Additional weekend sessions using both NHS Borders Consultants and nursing and IS Consultants and nursing
 - Cardiology - £22,600 – Additional weekend sessions using both NHS Borders Consultants and IS Consultants and nursing
 - Colonoscopy - £92,000 – Additional weekend sessions using IS Consultants and Nursing and weekday sessions using an NHS Locum Consultant
 - Dermatology - £22,250 – Additional weekday sessions to support specialist GP's and nursing
 - Diabetics - £3,750 – Additional weekend sessions using NHS Borders Consultants
 - ENT - £8,250 – Additional weekend sessions using IS Consultants
 - General Surgery - £18,750 – Additional weekday and weekend sessions using NHS Borders Consultants and nursing
 - Gynaecology - £18,750 - Additional weekday sessions using NHS Borders Consultants
 - Ophthalmology - £86,640 – Additional weekday and weekend sessions using IS Consultants and nursing
 - Oral Surgery – £2,650 – Additional evening sessions using NHS Borders Consultants
 - Orthopaedic Surgery – £24,984 – Additional weekday sessions using NHS Borders Consultants
 - Surgical Paediatrics - £3,600 – Additional weekday sessions using NHS Lothian Consultants
 - Vasectomy's - £14,000 – Additional weekend sessions using NHS Borders Consultants
 - Vasectomies - £14,000 – Washington Spire (20 patients) - Sendaways

3. The following independent sector providers have been used:

- Synaptik
- Medinet
- Aberdeen Clinic
- Washington Spire

4. Waiting times have reduced significantly following the additional activity organised using the Waiting Times Improvement Plan funding received, the majority of which has been organised for September 2019. We reported 1130 patients waiting over 12 weeks for a New Outpatient Appointment as of the 2 September 2019 however following the additional activity in month this is expected to reduce to around 500 patients by the end of September 2019 which is below the original trajectory set in the Waiting Times Improvement Plan.

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 **391-19** 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.