

## Freedom of Information request 420-19

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### Request

1. With the recent news that SB Cares is being disbanded and returning to the SBC's control, will the further reduction of beds to elderly patients within the DME still go ahead in October?
2. Also, with winter upon us, does this have an impact on the above decision (reducing DME and beds on other wards)?
3. What services do NHS Borders intend to roll out on top of the initiatives in place already?
4. As detailed in the Annual Operational Plan 2019/2020, £2.3m was allocated to the Borders, could you clarify for me where exactly this money will be invested?
5. Other than the above funding, has further support from government or others been received to meet the plans for transforming dementia patient inpatient services and the support offered to the community to care for their own health?

A separate topic which I found whilst reading the Annual Operational Plan, is the detailing of recruiting members of staff from the private sector to improve NHS Borders' capacity. I have a couple of questions regarding this:

6. Has NHS Borders previously hired private staff?
7. How often has this been required?
8. Has 'Brexit' influenced a potential greater need for private sector employees?
9. Is there a growing issue of fewer candidates in NHS Locums?

### Response

1. NHS Borders does not expect any adverse impact from the changes within SBCares, therefore the intended reduction in beds will continue as planned.
2. As above, we are working as normal as per our preparations for winter, this was particularly helpful during last winter, and we expect our plans to be as effective for this winter.
3. NHS Borders is working with the IJB and SBC on plans for the winter period, and more widely on transformation across the health and social care partnership.
4. The IJB is considering this within its next board meeting on 25 September 2019.
5. These plans are held within the existing budget of the Health and Social Care Partnership.
6. Yes.
7. The statement NHS Borders made in the Annual Operational Plan regarding hiring private staff was in relation to using locums through Independent Sector organisations like Synaptik or Medinet. Last year we used staffing from Synaptik to increase capacity. In 2018/19 a total of 594 patients were seen in Synaptik clinics.

8. This has not been evident in our Brexit planning to date.
9. NHS Borders' approach has been to reduce reliance on supplementary staffing, we have not detected there being fewer candidates for NHS locum appointments.

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 **420-19** 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.