

Freedom of Information request 530-19

Request

I am researching the use of clinical decision support systems used in NHS Trusts. As such I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

To assist you, what I mean by clinical decision support systems, these are stand alone or integrated software which helps clinical staff make safe decisions and take appropriate action. They can be algorithms, care plans, clinical referencing, or clinical condition specific guidelines which incorporate treatment or decision making.

Proprietary examples include:

- BestPractice (BMJ)
- ClinicalKey, ExpertPath, STATdx, Arezzo (Elsevier)
- DXS
- DynaMed, DynaMed Plus, Isabel (EBSCO)
- First DataBank, Zynx (Hearst)
- IBM Watson, Micromedex (IBM)
- iRefer (MedCurrent)
- MedicinesComplete (BNF)
- Provation
- LexiComp, UpToDate (WoltersKluwer)
- ThinkResearch (ThinkResearch Corporation)

To assist me with my research, could you please give me the following information please:

1. Does the trust operate any clinical decision support systems (examples above)
 - If so, which ones?
2. What is the cost of licenses (and any other support) the Trust paid on clinical decision support systems in the financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19
3. Has the trust developed their own electronic clinical decision support system(s)?
4. If so, what were the WTE and total funding costs incurred in development of their own clinical decision support system(s) for the financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively
5. What was the Trusts' total operating budget for financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively

Response

1. Please find below a list of clinical decision support systems operating in NHS Borders:

- Scriptswitch – Decision support solution for safe & effective use of medicines with the NHS. National system
- Bluebay CT- Decision support that interacts in real time at the point of care giving clinicians clear best practice advice adhering to care pathways & clinical guidelines (approx. £10,000 p/a)
- Dynamed Plus
- BMJ Best Practice
- RefHelp- Referral guidance for primary/secondary care
- MedicinesComplete (BNF)
- NHSScotland Antimicrobial Prescribing App
- Toxbase

2. Please find below the cost of licenses NHS Borders paid for clinical decision support systems for the years requested:

Scriptswitch - £ 37,000 p/a

Bluebay CT - £9,600 p/a

3. No.

4. Not applicable.

5. The total operating budget as noted in the Boards Annual Report and Accounts for 2017/18 was £223.926m and for 2018/19 was £237.771m.

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 **530-19** 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.