

Freedom of Information request 42-20

Request

I should like to request the following information relating to your Health Board's referrals for childhood cancer treatment:

We understand that it measures childhood treatment as for those persons between 0-14 and teenage and young adults treatment as aged between 15-24 however, if that is not available, please provide according to the nearest available year ranges. Furthermore, we understand the financial year to be April to March.

1:

- a) How many childhood cancer patients (aged between 0-14 at the time of referral) have been referred by the Board for cancer treatment year on year for the past five financial years (running from April to March)?
- b) How many teenage and young adult (TYA) (aged between 15-24 at time of referral) have been referred by the Board for cancer treatment year on year for the past five financial years?

2:

- a) How many childhood cancer patients (aged between 0-14 at the time of referral) have been referred by the Trust outside of the Board area for cancer treatment, year on year for the past five financial years (running from April to March)?
- b) How many TYA patients (aged between 15-24 at time of referral) have been referred by the Board outside of the Trust area for cancer treatment, year on year for the past five financial years?

3:

- a) How much has the Board spent on childhood cancer treatment (aged between 0-14) for each of the past five financial years?
- b) How much has the Board spent on TYA (15-24) cancer treatment for each of the past five financial years?

4:

- a) What was the average wait time for a childhood cancer diagnosis (0-14) in your Board year on year for the past five financial years?
- b) What was the average wait time for a TYA cancer diagnosis (15-24) in your Board year on year for the past five financial years?

Response

1&2 NHS Borders do not treat childhood cancer patients locally, all these patients are referred to the Oncology service at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. Further data will be available from NHS Lothian therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.

a) Please find below the number of recorded referrals to NHS Lothian for 0-14 year olds:

- 2014/15 – 78
- 2015/16 – 61
- 2016/17 – 74
- 2017/18 – 91
- 2018/19 – 97

b) Please find below the number of recorded referrals to NHS Lothian for 15-24 year olds:

- 2014/15 – 54
- 2015/16 – 34
- 2016/17 – 61
- 2017/18 – 64
- 2018/19 – 56

3. NHS Borders do not collate costs per treatment/diagnosis or by age group therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held. Under Section 15 Duty to provide advice and assistance information on NHS treatment costs can be found at the following link:

<https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Finance/Costs/Detailed-Tables/index.asp>

4. a) NHS Borders do not treat childhood cancer patients locally, all these patients are referred to the Oncology service at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. This data will be available from NHS Lothian therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.

b) The average time from referral to treatment for 16-24 year olds was 39 days.

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 **42-20** 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.