

## Freedom of Information request 53-20

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### Request

1. Has the NHS. Borders provided any funding for any patient to participate in a clinical trial within the last 3 years. If so, how many patients have benefitted from such treatment?
2. How much money has Scottish Borders NHS spent in each of the last three financial years funding any such participation in clinical trials?
3. How many requests has the Extra Contractual Funding Committee considered for extra contractual funding within each of the last three financial years and how many have been approved/ rejected in each year?
4. Has the Extra Contractual Funding Committee considered any requests for extra contractual funding in respect of Total hip replacement or Hip resurfacing arthroplasty within each of the last the last three years. If so, how many in each category and how many were approved/ rejected in each year?
5. How many Scottish Borders NHS patients have benefited from funded hip resurfacing arthroplasty within each of the last 3 financial years?
6. On how many occasions within each of the last 3 financial years has the decisions of the Extra Contractual Funding Committee been the subject of an appeal? Also , in respect of each year, please provide a breakdown of how many have been upheld and how many have been rejected?

### Response

1. NHS Borders has not provided any funding to patients to participate in a clinical trial within the last 3 years.
2. Not applicable.
3. Please find below the number of ECR referrals reviewed in the last 3 years:

ECR status	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Approved	105	100	95
Hold (awaiting referrer info)	<5	<5	<5
Refused	41	49	42
<b>Totals</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>142</b>

As some numbers are very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

4. Please find below the number of Hip Arthroplasty or Hip Resurfacing Arthroplasty requests reviewed by the ECR Panel:

Year	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
Service	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused

Hip Resurfacing Arthroplasty		<5	<5		<5	
Hip Arthroplasty		<5		<5		

As some numbers are very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

5. As the number of funded patients in each year is very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).
6. NHS Borders Extra Contractual Referrals appeals process allows patients who feel the ECR protocol has not been followed to appeal the process (not the decision) within 28 days of receiving the decision letter.

In the last 3 full financial years (2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19) no appeals have been received through the appeals process.

Patients or referers may request the Extra Contractual Referral (ECR) panel to review a decision they have made if further information becomes available that wasn't originally submitted to the ECR panel.

A re-review of a decision with further information is not considered to be an appeal as above. Therefore re-reviews are not recorded as appeals as they remain part of the original request.

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 **53-20** 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.