

Freedom of Information request 90-20

Request

1. I would like to request a list of genetic analysis instruments used by NHS Borders within their Metabolic Unit?
2. How many patients has Dr John O'Donnell seen since joining the Metabolic Team at the BGH, for genetic metabolic disorders and enzyme deficiency testing, annually and in total?
3. How many people work in the Metabolic Unit at the BGH and how many of the team are qualified in medical genetics, pharmacological drug induced metabolic disorders and enzyme deficiency testing?
4. If an external company is used for some or all genetic and enzyme testing what is the name of the company the BGH use, the annual cost and the cost from 2010 to 2020?

Response

1. There is no Metabolic Unit within NHS Borders however we do run some Metabolic clinics. We have no genetic testing facilities within the BGH laboratory therefore we have no genetic analysis instruments.
2. Please find below the number of patients seen by Dr O'Donnell for genetic metabolic disorders and enzyme deficiency testing:

2008 - <5, 2009 - 0, 2010 - 0, 2011 - 0, 2012 - 0, 2013 - 0, 2014 - 0, 2015 - <5, 2016 - 0, 2017 - 0, 2018 - 0, 2019 - <5. Total - <5
3. There is no Metabolic Unit within NHS Borders.
4. NHS Borders do send samples outwith the Board to Clinical Genetics in NHS Lothian for genetic testing on an occasional basis. This is part of the laboratory matrix agreement with Lothian and is funded by National Services Scotland (NSS); therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 we do not hold the costs of these tests.

As the number of events in some areas 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](#).

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 **90-20** 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.