

Freedom of Information request 117-20

Request

Under the freedom of information act, I would like to know the following. Please break down the figures by year, for the past 3 years (2017, then 2018, then 2019).

1. How many people have been treated for car-related incidents in the past 3 years in your area?
2. What is the number of people that suffered from whiplash due to car incidents over the past 3 years in your area?
3. What has been the cost of physio for car related incidents over the last 3 years in your area?
4. What has been the cost of other medical services relating to car related incidents over the last 3 years in your area?
5. What was the overall cost of accidents by your local NHS emergency services in the last 3 years?

Response

- 1&2. The table below details the number of A&E attendances recorded with a car-related diagnosis and diagnosis of whiplash between 2017 and 2019:

	2017	2018	2019
A&E Attendances with Car-Related Diagnosis	47	52	44
A&E Attendances with Whiplash Diagnosis	36	28	25

Please note that our A&E system only records one diagnosis code, therefore actual numbers of attendances may be higher. This information may be contained in a patient's notes, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient notes and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.

- 3-5. NHS Borders receives income recovered through the NHS Injury Cost Recovery (ICR) Scheme in relation to Road Traffic Accidents.

The fundamental principle behind the ICR Scheme is that those responsible for causing injury to others should meet the cost of NHS treatment. NHS costs are recovered only where personal injury compensation is paid, for example after a road traffic accident. Funds recovered come primarily from a third-party compensator/insurer.

The scheme is based on a simple average cost tariff system to allow the efficient and cost-effective recovery of monies whilst also keeping running costs down in order to maximise the benefits for NHS services.

The tariff cost basis does not enable the analysis of costs for the categories as requested by this FOI, therefore under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this information is not held. However, under Section 15 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Duty to provide advice and assistance, please find below a table that details the total income recovered through the ICR by NHS Borders for the past 3 financial years:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Injury Cost Recovered	£199,857	£179,221	£201,058

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 **117-20** 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.