

Freedom of Information request 242-20

Request

I would like to request the following under Freedom of Information legislation.

1. How many women have qualified for the exceptional criteria in relation to medical reasons for breast reduction surgery in each of the last 5 years since 2015?
2. How many breast reduction surgeries have been carried out in each of the last 5 years since 2015?
3. How many referrals for breast reduction surgery have been made in each of the last 5 years since 2015?

Response

1. The information requested is not available through local reports and databases, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held. Patients requiring breast reduction due to medical reasons would normally be referred into tertiary services at NHS Lothian by their consultant. NHS Lothian as the provider of this service would triage and assess the referral and decide if the patient meets the national criteria in place to proceed through the surgical process.

Patients can also ask for a referral through their GP. These requests require prior authorisation by the Extra Contractual Referral Panel (ECR). The ECR panel review the request in line with available national guidance before making a decision.

It should be noted that approval from the ECR panel to refer patient into NHS Lothian breast reduction services does not mean that a patient has qualified for the exceptional criteria by the provider. This would be NHS Lothian as the providers of care who makes the final decision upon triaging the patient referral.

The number of requests approved through the ECR panel for onward referral into NHS Lothian breast reduction services is set out in the table below. NHS Borders ECR database does not hold detailed information to identify if a medical reason or other was given.

No. of ECR's approved for referral into Breast reduction surgery (medical need not identified)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Q1	7	0	5	<5	<5

2. This is not a service provided within NHS Borders facilities, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data may be available from NHS Lothian.
3. This is not a service provided within NHS Borders facilities, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data may be available from NHS Lothian.

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 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.