

Freedom of Information request 351-20

Request

Under the Freedom of Information Scotland Act (2002), please provide me with the following related to hospital referrals of patients within your Board area:

- i. Number of scheduled medical appointments out of county. This may be out- or in-patient. I do not require a breakdown of this.
- ii. With regards to i., please itemize according to discipline (e.g. maternity, cardiology). I do not require a breakdown of destination hospital or if they have been referred to another Board.

This relates to the five most recent financial years including 2020/1. Please itemize according to individual month where possible.

Response

Please find below the number of episodes of care for patients seen outwith the NHS Borders area.

As NHS Borders patients can be sent to many different providers of care through different routes we do not hold one database with all this information. To extract this data would require a manual trawl of a number of databases and paper records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002, therefore we are not required to provide.

Under Section 15 of the FOI(S)A Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance we have however included for reference the number of episodes of care seen in our main acute tertiary provider NHS Lothian.

Please see data below:

Total Number of Elective Inpatient, day case, new & review outpatient appointments for Borders patients within our Tertiary provider NHS Lothian Acute Activity 2016/17 to 2020-21 (August 2020)	
Specialty Description	Grand Total
ANAESTHETICS	983
AUDIOMETRY	22
CARDIAC SURGERY	1,012
CARDIOLOGY	4,413
CHIROPODY/PODIATRY	247
CLINICAL GENETICS	30
CLINICAL ONCOLOGY	7,821
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	362
CLINICAL RADIOLOGY	316
COMMUNITY DENTAL PRACTICE	75
COMMUNITY SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	25
DENTAL HYGIENE	2
DERMATOLOGY	1,685
DIABETES	460
DIETETICS	153
EAR, NOSE & THROAT (ENT)	2,039

Edinburgh Breast Unit	2,344
ENDOCRINOLOGY	675
ENDOCRINOLOGY & DIABETES	32
GASTROENTEROLOGY	2,303
GENERAL MEDICINE	426
GENERAL PSYCHIATRY (MENTAL ILLNESS)	422
GENERAL SURGERY (EXCL VASCULAR)	8,102
GERIATRIC MEDICINE	145
GP OTHER THAN OBSTETRICS	1
GYNAECOLOGY	2,449
HAEMATOLOGY	2,300
HAEMOPHILIA	454
IMMUNOLOGY	38
INFECTIOUS DISEASES	996
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY	3,898
MEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHY	41
MEDICAL PHYSICS	288
MIDWIFERY	257
Neonatal Paediatrics	73
NEUROLOGY	2,970
NEUROSURGERY	4,160
OBSTETRICS	928
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	9
OPHTHALMOLOGY	4,796
ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY	2,277
ORAL SURGERY	6
ORTHOPTICS	379
ORTHOTICS	248
PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY	32
PAEDIATRIC SURGERY	379
PAEDIATRICS	179
PALLIATIVE MEDICINE	31
PHYSIOTHERAPY	2,502
PLASTIC SURGERY	6,969
RENAL MEDICINE	1,056
RESPIRATORY MEDICINE	7,459
RHEUMATOLOGY	785
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY	247
THORACIC SURGERY	1,088
TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY	4,474
UROLOGY	3,169
VASCULAR SURGERY	3,860
TOTALS	92,892

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 **351-20** 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.