

## Freedom of Information request 398-20

---

### Request

1. Can you tell me how many private patients have been treated on NHS grounds by NHS consultants from March 1 2020 to present day – with a breakdown of cases and reason.
2. How many patients have been treated by NHS consultants privately outwith NHS grounds.
3. How many patients have been referred to private hospitals for treatment.

### Response

1. There have <5 private patients treated on NHS grounds by NHS Consultants for Ophthalmology reasons.
2. This is not information that NHS Borders would hold, this data would be held on the providers systems. Therefore under Section 12 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data cannot be provided.
3. NHS Borders does not hold a database identifying patient referrals to private hospitals. Patients and clinicians requesting treatment out of area including to private hospitals are reviewed through the Extra Contractual Referral process.

According to the number of invoices received from private hospitals for the period of 1 March 2020 to 30 September 2020 there were <5 patients referred for treatment.

This figure assumes the data requested is for acute hospital care and does not include long term placements for learning disabilities or mental health, holiday dialysis patients in facilities out of area are also excluded.

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](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 **398-20** 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.