

## Freedom of Information request 109-21

---

### Request

Please may I make the following Freedom of Information request of your Trust:

1. For the calendar year of 2019, please could you tell me how many individual MRI examinations were performed overall?
2. For the calendar year of 2019, please could you give a breakdown of the individual MRI examinations performed into body part/area? For instance, how many brain scans, spine scans etc. I am happy with whichever body part description is input in the PACS system.
3. As of March 1st, 2021, how many MRI requests are on the waiting list waiting to be scanned? Please could I have this broken down into individual body part/examination too (like in question 2)?
4. How much money was paid to private companies during the calendar year 2019 for the outsourcing of MRI either to mobile MRI units, private hospitals or private companies staffing hospital scanners to scan NHS patients?

From question 4 which companies were used and how many patients were scanned?

### Response

1. In the calendar year of 2019, 5,155 individual MRI examinations were performed at NHS Borders.
- 2 & 3. For both questions 2 and 3, please see the excel spreadsheet for the details as per your request:



FOI 109-21  
Response.xlsx

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](#).

4. There was no money paid by NHS Borders to private companies during the calendar year 2019. NHS Borders has an allocation of 200 patients per year which can be sent to the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Glasgow and this allocation is funded by the Scottish Government. No other scanning is outsourced.

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 **109-21** 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.