

Freedom of Information request 3-22

Request

1. For the calendar year of 2021, please could you tell me how many individual MRI examinations were performed overall?
2. For the calendar year of 2021, 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 the start of 2022, what would the waiting time be (in weeks) for a routine MRI scan (for example how long would a patient have to wait if they were referred for a routine MRI scan of their knee)?
4. How much money was paid to private companies during the calendar year 2021 for the outsourcing of MRI either to mobile MRI units, private hospitals or private companies staffing hospital scanners to scan NHS patients?
5. From question 4 which companies were used and how many patients were scanned?
6. How many MRI scanners does the Trust own?
7. From question 6 could I please have the manufacturer, model, and date of install of the MRI scanners?

Response

1. In the calendar year 2021 there were 7,105 individual MRI examinations performed.
2. This information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
3. The waiting time at the beginning of 2022 is 2 weeks.
4. In 2021 we replaced our only MRI scanner. To accommodate this we had a mobile van onsite from July until December 2021. This is the first time we have used a mobile scanner and it cost NHS Borders £375,892.
5. The company used was In Health and 2187 patients were scanned during this time. You will note this was NHS Borders only MRI Scanner during the replacement period.
6. NHS Borders owns 1 MRI Scanner.
7. The MRI Scanner is a Siemens Sola and the first patient was scanned in October 2021.

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 **3-22** 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.