

## Freedom of Information request 72-22

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### Request

1. The number of cancer patients forced to travel outside the health board for treatment/consultations in the past three years. Please break this down by year.
2. Could you please state which health board they have travelled to and for what treatment they had to go for.

I understand that figures on patients going outside the health board might not be centrally held - so if this is not possible please provide which health boards you send cancer patients to for treatment/consultation and what treatment they receive there.

3. Any and all costs associated with sending cancer patients to other health boards for treatment/consultations. Again, please break this down by year.

### Response

NHS Borders aims to provide patient care within local services where at all possible, however where necessary NHS Borders may need to commission care from other providers out with the local area. The main provider of tertiary care to NHS Borders residents is NHS Lothian.

1. The table embedded below shows the number of NHS Borders patients as having been seen in oncology services at NHS Lothian within the last 3 years:



Q1 Data.xlsx

2. NHS Borders receives data from providers of care in several different formats. There is no central database holding the data for all patient treatment to out of area boards. We calculate that to compile all the different data reports would exceed the amount prescribed for responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Therefore under Section 12(1) Excessive cost of compliance, of the Act, we are not obliged to provide you with the information.

As the patient pathway for Borders residents requiring tertiary care is for them to be referred into NHS Lothian the information included in the table in question 1 is from the data reports received from NHS Lothian.

3. The costs charged by NHS Lothian for the oncology services are part of the wider costing agreement for all specialties. Costs are calculated using a base rate relating to a 3 year rolling average of activity. The base costs charged for Oncology services in the past 3 years was:

	2018/19 Base Cost	2019/20 Base Cost	2020/21 Base Cost
Total cost for year	£1,362,794	£1,553,884	£1,755,409

Please note, the costs in the above table sets out the base rate only, this is subject to a marginal rate adjustment depending on the in year activity flow.

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 **72-22** 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.