

Freedom of Information request 74-22

Request

1. The number of NHS patients sent to private hospitals by the health board for outpatient appointments and procedures in the last three years.
 - Could you please break this down by year and by department.
2. The number of NHS patients sent to private hospitals by the health board for operations/surgeries in the last three years.
 - Could you please break this down by year and by department.
3. All costs for the health board associated with sending NHS patients to private hospitals in the last three years.
 - Could you please break this down by year.

Response

1. Please see the table below for the number of NHS Borders patients sent to private hospitals for outpatient appointments and procedures in the last three years broken down by year and department:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Specialty	No. of Patients	No. of Patients	No. of Patients
Bariatric Surgery	0	<5	0
Diagnostics	<5	0	0
Gynaecology	<5	<5	<5
Laser hair removal	<5	<5	0
Orthopaedics	<5	0	0
Renal	7	<5	0

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board and the number of some patients is very small, to provide further details could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018. We are therefore withholding all other data under Section 38(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics that 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.

2. Please see the number of NHS Borders patients sent to private hospitals for elective operations in the last three years, broken down by day cases and inpatients:

Year	Day cases	Inpatients
2019	10	40
2020	16	72
2021	16	13

3. Please see below for NHS Borders spend associated with sending patients to private hospitals in the last three years:

Financial Year	Spend
2018/19	£466,427
2019/20	£148,591
2020/21	£0

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 **74-22** 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.