

Freedom of Information request 110-22

Request

1. How many under 18 year old biological males and females have been given gender reassignment surgery in your health board area over the past five years? Please break the numbers down according to sex.
2. How many under 18 year old biological males and females has your health board funded to have gender reassignment surgery in England in the last five years?
3. How many transgender people have detransitioned in the past five years and how many are currently in the process of detransitioning in your health board area?
4. How much has your health board spent on funding gender reassignment surgeries and all associated treatment costs for under 18 year olds in the last five years?
5. Has your health board settled any claims from transgender people contending that they should not have been given gender reassignment surgery in the last five years?
6. What is the total average cost to the NHS of gender reassignment treatment and surgery for a biological male and female, including associated treatments such as referrals to endocrinologists for hormone treatment and monitoring; referral for facial feminisation and tracheal shave; referral for breast augmentation; referral to speech therapy for help in projecting a more female or male sounding voice and referral for hair and tattoo removal by laser or electrolysis to help with body/hair beard; facial surgery; breast implants?
7. Does your health board keep a record of the numbers of detransitioners and if so what percentage of those who have undergone GR surgery go on to detransition?
8. Are under 16s ever referred for gender reassignment surgery? If so have any been referred without parental consent?
9. What is the average waiting time for gender reassignment surgery?
10. How many teenagers aged 16-17 have been sent to hospitals in England to undergo further assessment for specialist chest reconstruction over the past five years?

Response

NHS Borders does not have a Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) locally within Borders facilities, therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

NHS Borders patients requiring gender reassignment surgery are referred from a GIC to one of the nationally approved providers for care and therefore under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere. For your information please note NHS Borders' tertiary provider of care, which includes the local GIC for our patients, is NHS Lothian. Patients under 17 years old would be diverted into the GIC at NHS Glasgow.

Following the Scottish pathways and criteria in place, gender procedures are funded and managed through National Services Scotland. Patients under 16 years of age in Scotland would not be considered for hormone therapy or gender surgery.

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 **110-22** 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.