

Freedom of Information request 272-22

Request

1. In this health board, how much was spent on renting or leasing medical equipment from private companies during the financial year 2021/22? Please provide the data for 2020/21, 2019/20, 2018/19, and 2017/18.
2. For each of the years outlined above, please also provide a breakdown of the equipment rented or leased, what the rental charge was, what the period of the rental charge was, for how long and for how often it was rented, and the overall and monthly costs associated with each individual item.
3. For each of the years outlined above, and where items have been rented or leased, please explain why they have been rented or leased and where they were used (e.g. in an operating theatre, ward, intensive care).

Response

The board had one long term lease arrangement during the period of your request. This lease agreement covered arthroscopy equipment for Orthopaedic Surgery, including Camera Stacks, Power Drills and arthroscopy instruments. The equipment was leased from March 2017 to March 2022. Lease charges were a total of £190,047 over 5 years payable quarterly. The decision to lease was the preferred option on the basis of a financial appraisal.

In 2021/22 the health board entered into a short term rental of a Mobile MRI scanner in order to provide business continuity during the end of life replacement of the Health Board's existing scanner at Borders General Hospital. This mobile unit was located outside of the hospital's diagnostic radiology department. The total cost for hire of unit, including staffing, was £452,686. The supplier was In Health Group.

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 **272-22** 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.