

Freedom of Information request 279-22

Request

1. Please can you tell me, for each month of the last three full financial years and the full months of this financial year to the date of this request, how many times your health board has used patient transport services supplied by a private provider and not the Scottish Ambulance Service.
2. In addition, can you tell me how much your health board has spent on private patient transport services in each month of the last three full financial years and the full months of this financial year to the date of this request.

Response

1. NHS Borders Finance does not collate the data requested, we would only record the total invoice cost and not the number of times used. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
2. The amounts detailed below is the spend paid to private providers who have supplied patient transport, excluding Scottish Ambulance Service over the period since April 2019. This does not include payments paid directly to patients either within NHS Borders or within other boards which have then been invoiced to NHS Borders.

| Month / Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| April | 49,672 | 29,482 | 16,643 | 38,601 |
| May | 36,006 | 21,357 | 23,768 | 27,917 |
| June | 22,849 | 16,340 | 18,084 | 0 |
| July | 19,854 | 16,032 | 17,385 | 0 |
| August | 24,719 | 16,154 | 20,319 | 0 |
| September | 15,387 | 17,096 | 20,144 | 0 |
| October | 27,996 | 13,690 | 20,362 | 0 |
| November | 21,492 | 16,758 | 18,076 | 0 |
| December | 15,306 | 17,761 | 23,327 | 0 |
| January | 13,821 | 15,326 | 20,857 | 0 |
| February | 23,842 | 16,521 | 29,187 | 0 |
| March | 15,597 | 15,462 | 22,876 | 0 |
| Total Per Year | 286,541 | 211,979 | 251,028 | 66,518 |

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 **279-22** 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.