

Freedom of Information request 286-22

Request

I am seeking some data and information regarding annual fair trade purchasing within Borders NHS. In line with follow-up activities recommended by the Scottish Government's independently-commissioned review into the sales and promotion of Fair Trade goods in Scotland, I am compiling information on fair trade purchasing within public bodies, institutions and organisations throughout Scotland.

Could you please provide data on Borders NHS's total annual spend on fair trade goods throughout each of the past two annual accounts? (i.e. data from both 2020-2021 and 2021-2022). Could you break it down by vendor name; whether they were contracted/non-contracted; description of item(s) purchased; and the total value per order? I've attached an example below for further clarification. Could you also include items purchased for resale?

I am aware that, given potential limitations, you may only be able to capture spend where purchasers have specifically used such terms as "fair" and "trade", "fairtrade" or "fairly" and "traded" in their requisitions, and so items where buyers have used catalogue item numbers will not be reflected in the data. I will be sure to state these issues in my research report.

As a final request, could you also attach your current general policy on the procurement of fairly and ethically traded goods and services, in line with section 15(5)(b)(v) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014?

Response

The data on Fairtrade spend is not collated and held electronically therefore to provide this level of detail would require a manual trawl of all invoices and the work required to carry out this would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 therefore we are not obliged to provide. Under Section 15 of the FOI(S)A 2002 Duty to provide advice and assistance we can confirm we purchase Fairtrade cocoa powder and other confectionary items through National Procurement.

[National Services Scotland National Procurement](#) tender on behalf of NHS Borders, a full community benefits and fair work practice policy is included within each framework. All suppliers must submit, if appropriate, a full range of Fairtrade products available to the board. Under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.

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 **286-22** 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.