

## Freedom of Information request 334-22

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### Request

I am looking for information regarding the number of private surgeries and procedures carried out on behalf of your NHS Board during the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022.

As such, can I request the following:

1. A breakdown of the total activity at private hospitals on behalf of the NHS Board, by financial year, including outpatient appointments and procedures. For procedures, please provide a breakdown of what these were.
2. An annual breakdown of activity by each private hospital involved in the initiative.
3. An annual breakdown of the activity by each health board involved in the initiative.
4. The total cost of these procedures, broken down by each private health company.
5. The total amount spent from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022, broken down by year, by the Health Board on private procedures (i.e. excluding funding given by Scottish Government or NSS, Covid-related funding)
6. The total amount spent from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022, broken down by year, by the Scottish Government or NSS on private procedures for patients treated by your health board.

### Response

Qs 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Please find attached below the data as per request regarding private surgeries and procedures in the period requested:



FOI Data 334-22.xlsx

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of private procedures is very small, and to provide further details of these 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(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is also in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics 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.

3. We can only provide NHS Borders data as per attached table. Therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 other Board data may be accessible elsewhere.

6. There were no patients treated for private procedures within NHS Borders during the time period requested.

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](mailto: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 **334-22** 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.