

Freedom of Information request 370-22

Request

1. How much the trust spent on foreign interpreters in each of the following financial years: 2019-20; 2020-21 and 2021-22.
2. A breakdown of the languages that an interpreter was needed to translate.

Response

1. Please find below the NHS Borders spend on foreign interpreters as requested:

Financial Year	Costs £
2019-20	84,237.65
2020-21	37,428.86
2021-22	58,539.11
Total	180,205.62

2. Please find below the breakdown of the languages that an interpreter was needed to translate for financial year 2019-20:

Language	Cost	Number of events
Arabic	£12,726.41	149
Bengali	£875.90	10
Bulgarian	£1,061.65	23
Cantonese	£2,231.69	19
Dutch	£22.43	1
French	£37.39	1
Fuzhou	£14.95	1
Hungarian	£3,754.15	44
Korean	£45.92	1
Latvian	£256.74	5
Lithuanian	£6,931.13	60
Mandarin	£3,477.52	37
Polish	£37,296.25	482

Portuguese	£4,655.63	37
Punjabi	£329.09	5
Romanian	£3,591.91	39
Russian	£3,751.17	30
Spanish	£407.60	5
Slovak	£366.09	6
Turkish	£2,285.48	25
Vietnamese	£118.55	8
Total	£84,237.65	988

NHS Borders is not able to provide a breakdown of the languages that an interpreter was needed to translate in the years 2020-21 and 2021-22 as this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This data was collated in previous years, however due to Covid and capacity issues it was not seen as a priority but it is planned that this will be reintroduced in the future.

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 **370-22** 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.