

Freedom of Information request 427-22

Request

1. In this health board, how many scans* were sent to private teleradiology providers or commercial imaging companies for analysis** during the 2021-22 financial year? Please also provide the data for 2022/23 so far, as well as the 2020-21, 2019-20 and 2018-19 financial years. Please express your response both in numerical terms and as a percentage of the total number of scans undertaken during that year.

2. In this health board, where scans were sent to private teleradiology providers or commercial imaging companies for analysis during the 2021-22 financial year, please confirm how many of those scans were sent abroad for review. Please express your response both in numerical terms and as a percentage of the total number of scans sent to teleradiology providers or commercial imaging companies. Where this has occurred, please outline which countries the scans were sent to. Please also provide the data for 2022/23 so far, as well as the 2020-21, 2019-20 and 2018-19 financial years.

3. In this health board, where scans were sent to private teleradiology providers or commercial imaging companies for analysis during the 2021-22 financial year, what was the cost associated with those contracts in pounds sterling? Please also provide the data for 2022/23 so far, as well as the 2020-21, 2019-20 and 2018-19 financial years.

* I am defining 'scans' as: X-rays, CT scans and MRI scans.

** I am defining 'sent to private teleradiology providers or commercial imaging companies' as: the practice whereby health boards subcontract a proportion of the scanning review and analysis workload to providers outwith the health board or wider NHS.

Response

1-3 Please find data below as per request:

- 2019/2020 - 4691 cases - Cost £156,403 - 30% of reporting workload for CT/MRI
- 2020/2021 - 1853 cases - Cost £54,030 - 13% as above
- 2021/2022 - 5742 cases - Cost £195,448 - 27% as above
- 2022/2023 - 1855 cases - Cost £62,013 - April to August

NHS Borders use TMC to provide this service and they are based in Barcelona and Australia therefore all reports were sent abroad for review.

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 **427-22** 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.