

## Freedom of Information request 470-22

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### Request

I wish to make a formal enquiry regarding waiting times for full hip replacement surgery with NHS Borders.

The following are the issues I would like answered:

1. What is the current waiting time from referral to meeting with an Orthopaedic Consultant?
2. What is the current waiting time from seeing a Consultant until surgery?
3. Can I be referred to another health authority through the UK who has more efficient/ shorter waiting times?
4. If I feel my physical and mental well being are being further compromised beyond what is acceptable and humane owing to waiting times, will NHS Borders reimburse the full costs of me accessing private care or going abroad for treatment?

### Response

1. The current waiting time in NHS Borders for an Orthopaedic Outpatient appointment is 22 weeks – based on data for June 2022 – August 2022. This is determined as the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile wait in weeks (reflective of longest waiting patients) for an Orthopaedic Outpatient appointment in that period.
2. The current waiting time in NHS Borders, from being added to the Waiting List for an Orthopaedic procedure, which is determined at the Outpatient appointment, to the procedure taking place is 90 weeks – based on data for June 2022 – August 2022. This is determined as the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile wait in weeks (reflective of longest waiting patients) for an Orthopaedic procedure in that period.
3. NHS Borders does not have in place agreements with other UK Health Authorities to provide hip replacement surgery. We do have in place an agreement with a private provider in England to supplement local capacity, this is part of NHS Borders' plans to improve current waits. Places are limited and allocated strictly in date order with our longest waiting patient prioritised to ensure patients are treated equitably. Scottish Government has recently published new waiting times standards and alongside this they are advocating that all Boards in Scotland reduce their waiting times in tandem so that there is equity of access across the country. They will be allocating some capacity in non-NHS facilities to help reduce waiting lists and when this is made available, the appointments will be allocated based on clinical priority and the longest waiting patients.
4. NHS Borders are not able to reimburse costs associated with private treatment or treatment received abroad. Patients on our waiting list are prioritised by the clinician assessing the patient and this is based on their condition at assessment. If a patient believes their condition has deteriorated since assessment, they are directed to contact the Booking Team at the Borders General Hospital on 01896 827200 who will put the patient in contact with the Specialist Team responsible for their care.

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 **470-22** 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.