

Freedom of Information request 621-22

Request

I would be grateful if the following could be handled as an FOI request from the years 2018/19 to 2022/23.

1. The total locum agency spend for doctors working in both acute settings and in primary care
2. The total locum agency spend for doctors working in Accident and Emergency Departments
3. The total number of shifts worked by locum doctors, with a breakdown by acute and primary care.
4. Please provide the 10 highest amounts of money paid by the Health Board to a locum doctor for working a single shift.
5. Names of each agency used by the Health Board to provide locum doctors.
6. Total amount of money paid by the Health Board to each of those agencies noted in 5 above.

Response

1. The total locum agency spend by NHS Borders for Doctors working in both acute settings and in Primary Care is:

2018/19	£164,928
2019/20	£ 96,413
2020/21	£190,652
2021/22	£193,765
2022/23	£172,982 up to October 2022

2. NHS Borders has not had any locum agency spend on Doctors for A&E from 2018/19 to 2022/23 (to date).
3. NHS Borders does not record this level of detail on the electronic systems therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
4. The electronic Finance System used by NHS Borders does not detail the charge for each individual shift but is a consolidated invoice from the relevant Agency Nursing supplier. To identify this information would require a manual trawl of all invoices received for Locum Doctor shifts worked during this time period and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 therefore under Section 12 cost of compliance we are not required to provide.
5. Please see Table 1 attached for the names of each agency used by NHS Borders to provide locum Doctors.



FOI 621-22 Response
Table 1.xlsx

6. Please see Table 1 attached for the total amount of money paid by NHS Borders to each of the agencies.



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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 **621-22** 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.