

Freedom of Information request 628-22

Request

1. In this health board, how many cancer patients were transferred from hospitals in Scotland to hospitals and other settings in England and Wales in the financial year 2021-22? Please also provide the data for the financial years 2020-21, 2019-20, 2018-19 and 2017-18.
2. In this health board, where cancer patients were transferred from hospitals in Scotland to hospitals and other settings in England and Wales, what was the average distance of the transfer during the financial year 2021-22? Please also provide the data for the financial years 2020-21, 2019-20, 2018-19 and 2017-18.
3. In this health board, where cancer patients were transferred from hospitals in Scotland to hospitals and other settings in England and Wales, what was the furthest transfer in miles during the financial year 2021-22? Please also provide the data for the financial years 2020-21, 2019-20, 2018-19 and 2017-18.
4. In this health board, where cancer patients were transferred from hospitals in Scotland to hospitals and other settings in England and Wales, please provide a reason why that transfer took place. For instance, was it because of a lack of beds?
5. In this health board, what was the total cost associated with transferring cancer patients from hospitals in Scotland to other settings in England and Wales in the financial year 2021-22? Please also provide the data for the financial years 2020-21, 2019-20, 2018-19 and 2017-18.

Clarification:

Request: “transferred from hospitals in Scotland” – please can you provide a clear definition – for instance, are you looking for patients that were physically transferred from one hospital to another (which would only be inpatients) or are you looking for all cancer care that was transferred (i.e. the patient was at home and attended as an outpatient for an appointment/day case or a scan etc)?

Response: Patients transferred from one hospital to another please.

Response

NHS Borders residents attending Northumbria, Cumbria and Newcastle hospitals fall under Service Level Agreements (SLA's) and some of the services out with Scotland will be for specialist services not available in Scotland. NHS Borders patients would be transferred to specialist units through local tertiary specialists such as NHS Lothian. Specialist care such as this tends to be funded through National Service Division. Therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please note, under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this data may be accessible elsewhere.

However, current NHS Borders databases hold data for some patients electively transferred with local funding approval through NHS Borders Extra Contractual Referral (ECR) panel, the data provided is taken from the ECR database. This information has been provided in Table 1 below.

Question	Description	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
1	Number of Cancer patients transferred	0	0	<5	0	0
2	Average distance of the transfer	0	0	322	0	0
3	Furthest distance of transfer	0	0	412	0	0
4	Transfer reasons	0	0	Personal reasons and care not available in Scotland	0	0
5	Total cost of transfers	£ -	£ -	These costs are not identifiable, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.	£ -	£ -

As the number of events in some areas are very small and 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](#).

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 **628-22** 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.