

## Freedom of Information request 419-23

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### Request

1. How much your health board spends annually on alcohol support services.
2. How much your health board spends annually on drug support services.
3. How many people have been a) referred to and b) subsequently attended said alcohol support services.
4. How many people have been a) referred to and b) subsequently attended said drug support services.

Please provide figures where applicable for investment, referrals, and attendances for each of the last five years.

### Response

1. & 2. NHS Borders do not record the spend on alcohol support services and drug support services separately, therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The combined figures for alcohol and drug services are shown below:

2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
£ 1,949,030	£ 1,925,878	£ 1,923,931	£ 1,769,635	£ 1,128,277

3. & 4. NHS Borders do not separately record alcohol support services and drug support services referral and attendance information electronically. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide. The combined figures for the number of people referred to alcohol and drug support services, and the number who subsequently attended, are shown below:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Referrals</b>	964	922	671	720	568
<b>Started Treatment</b>	486	504	544	448	524

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 **419-23** 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.