

Freedom of Information request 499-23

Request

1. During 2022/23, how much in total did NHS Borders spend sending patients to the private sector for treatment?
2. How many patients in total were sent to the private sector for treatment?
3. Which private facilities were used?
4. Please provide whatever breakdown you have available for these referrals (e.g. type of procedure, cost etc)

CLARIFICATION RECVD:

I would probably want all private referrals. However, if you are able to distinguish how many were done to meet waiting list targets, and how many were done to provide a service not available locally then please split them into separate categories when providing the response.

Response

1. The total spend by NHS Borders in 2022/23 sending patients to the private sector for treatment is £3,044,861. This total is made up of:

£1,551,645 for NHS Borders patients being treated within private facilities through the Extra Contractual Referral (ECR) process.

£1,493,216 for sending patients to private sector for treatment in relation to meeting waiting list targets (Waiting List Initiative).
2. There were 147 patients sent to the private sector for treatment. However, 28 waiting list initiative patients were rejected. Therefore 119 patients were treated.
3. The private facilities used were:
 - British Pregnancy Advisory Service
 - Cherry Tree Electrolysis
 - Cygnet Healthcare
 - Elysium Healthcare
 - Glasgow Centre for Reproductive Medicine
 - Harley Street London
 - Newcastle Clinic (Private)
 - Partnership in Care, Ayr Clinic
 - SK:N Clinics
 - Spire Washington

4. The breakdown by specialty is:

Specialty	Number of Patients	Cost per Specialty
Dermatology	<5	£ 404
Endocrinology	<5	£ 172
Gender Reassignment	<5	£ 5,175
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	<5	£ 16,075
Learning Disability	<5	£ 1,047,536
Mental Health	<5	£ 481,884
Radiology	<5	£ 399
Orthopaedics	102	£ 1,493,216
Totals	119	£ 3,044,861

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 **499-23** 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.