

Freedom of Information request 510-23

Request

For many of you, I suspect there will be no specialist eye hospital, but I'd be grateful if you could confirm that for me.

Those who do have specialist eye hospitals, I am trying again to establish how many patients come to the NHS after disasters, or even just poor outcomes, from private refractive eye surgery, and it would be especially important to know how much this costs the NHS.

I realise the figures might not be kept routinely, but if that is the case, please could you try to gather them for me for the last full year, or even the numbers to date this year?

I have been contacted by easily 100 patients from around the UK in the time I've taken an interest. In two cases, I was contacted by the spouses of patients driven to suicide by their outcomes.

I want this information to be able to write a factual news account warning people not to be conned by adverts and gimmicks on Facebook that laser-eye surgery and especially lens replacement is risk-free and guaranteed to leave you glasses free. No artificial lens can match your own natural lens, yet private providers are doing lens replacement on people in their 30s and even a handful in their 20s.

It is outrageous and I really do beg you to gather this information if you can and help me to get the right information out there to stop people driven by money ruining other people's lives.

Response

NHS Borders do not have a specialist eye hospital within our boundary area, we would refer patients to NHS Lothian - [The Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion – Going to Hospital \(nhslothian.scot\)](https://www.nhs.uk/healthcare/lothian) Therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this information may be accessible elsewhere.

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 **510-23** 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.

