

## Freedom of Information request 548-23

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### Request

1. In 2022/23 how many walking aids were distributed in this health board? Walking aids would include Walking frames, wheeled walking frames, crutches etc. Could you break down this figure by walking aid type.
2. In relation to question 1, how many of these aids were returned? Could you break down this figure by walking aid type.
3. What was the total cost of unreturned walking aids in 2022/23? If this can't be provided, could the cost per item of each walking aid be provided?

### Response

1. In 2022/23, NHS Borders distributed a total of 2815 walking aids.

Distributed from Borders General Hospital

WZWF Sm	19
WZWF med	270
WZWF Lg	78
4WW	120
3WW	7
Pulpit	8
Topro	3
Gutter frame	5
Elb Crutches	27
Gutter crutch	9
Bariatric Crutches	4
Bariatric 4WW	2
Bariatric WZWF	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>554</b>

Distributed from the Community Store

Atlas/Pulpit Walking Frame	43
Quad Small Based Adjustable Stick	12
Single Bariatric Crutch	10
Heavy Duty Walker upto 28 stones	17
Dble Adj Crutch Comfort Handle Pair	63
Lightweight 3wheel loop brake	57
Arthritic Gutter adj Elbow Crutches (Pair)	5
Crutch Child Adj 6 - 10 yrs - PAIR	4
Walker Trough Supports TALL with front wheels	11
Bariatric Folding Walking frame ferruled 226KG	7
Penco Walker Glides per pair	52
Childs Wheeled Walking Frame - Green	2
Adj Elbow Crutch - 106 - 136cm	169
Comfy Grip Stick - Right	50
Adj Walking Stick - 28"-38"	123
Lightweight Safety Walker	713
Domestic Wheeled Walker Small	44
Zimmer Walking Frame (Medium)	6
Domestic Wheeled Walker Medium	655
Domestic Wheeled Walker Large	218
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2261</b>

2. The number of walking aids that were returned to the Community Store is:

Atlas/Pulpit Walking Frame	25
Quad Small Based Adjustable Stick	5
Single Bariatric Crutch	2
Heavy Duty Walker upto 28 stones	8
Dble Adj Crutch Comfort Handle Pair	17
Lightweight 3wheel loop brake	23
Arthritic Gutter adj Elbow Crutches (Pair)	1
Crutch Child Adj 6 - 10 yrs - PAIR	0
Walker Trough Supports TALL with front wheels	10
Bariatric Folding Walking frame ferruled 226KG	3
Penco Walker Glides per pair	24

Childs Wheeled Walking Frame - Green	2
Adj Elbow Crutch - 106 - 136cm	49
Comfy Grip Stick - Right	12
Adj Walking Stick - 28"-38"	33
Lightweight Safety Walker	263
Domestic Wheeled Walker Small	17
Zimmer Walking Frame (Medium)	2
Domestic Wheeled Walker Medium	300
Domestic Wheeled Walker Large	89
<b>Totals</b>	<b>885</b>

Please note: all walking aids are returned to the Community Store and not Borders General Hospital (BGH) therefore there are no returns recorded for BGH.

3. The total cost of unreturned walking aids in 2022/23 is £67,554. Please note, the cost for the Topros is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, therefore this is not included in the unreturned walking aids total figure.

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 **548-23** 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.