

PUBLIC SERVICES REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

2023/24 DISCLOSURES

1. Background to the disclosures

1.1. The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (“the Act”) received Royal Assent in April 2010. It contained a number of provisions for the restructuring of Public Sector organisations in Scotland and set up powers for Scottish Ministers to improve the exercise of public functions. It also imposed duties on Scottish Ministers and listed public bodies (including NHS Lothian) to publish information on expenditure and other matters on an annual basis.

1.2. Under the Act’s information provisions, NHS Borders must publish annually the following information:

Section 31 disclosures (section 2)

- Expenditure incurred in the financial year on or in connection with:
 - public relations (section 2.1),
 - overseas travel (section 2.2),
 - hospitality and entertainment (section 2.3),
 - external consultancy (section 2.4)
- Payments made during the financial year with a value in excess of £25,000 (section 2.5) (inclusive of VAT and not including remuneration payments)
- The number of members or employees receiving remuneration in excess of £150,000 (section 2.6)

Section 32 disclosures (section 3)

- Statement outlining the steps taken during the financial year to promote sustainable economic growth in Borders (section 3.1).
- Statement outlining the steps taken during the financial year to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and economy (section 3.2).

1.3. The timing of public release of such disclosures in NHS Borders is typically built around the time that the Annual Accounts of NHS Borders are placed before Parliament. This typically takes place between September and November.

1.4. The following paragraphs summarise the position of NHS Borders in respect of the disclosures required by the Act and listed in paragraph 1.2 above.

2. Section 31 Disclosures

Public Relations

2.1. The total expenditure on public relations during the 2023/24 financial year was £16k (2022/23: £30k). This expenditure includes costs incurred for external communication and promotional activities, including event support, marketing services, design consultancy and public engagement initiatives.

Overseas Travel

2.2. The total cost of overseas travel during the 2023/24 financial year was £ Nil (2022/23: £ Nil).

Hospitality and Entertainment

2.3. The total cost of hospitality and entertainment during the 2023/24 financial year was £ Nil (2022/23: Nil).

External Consultancy

2.4. The total cost of external consultancy during the 2023/24 financial year was £469k (2022/23: £ 445k). This expenditure includes range of consultancy services across several areas, including capital works, property and plant advisory, management consultancy, IM&T (Information Management and Technology) and financial regulatory compliance. These services were commissioned to provide specialist expertise not available within NHS Border's own workforce and represent a cost-effective approach to directly employing such specialist staff.

Expenditure > £25,000

2.5. A full list of payments with a value in excess of £25,000 made during the 2023/24 financial year is published on the Board's website here:

[nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/corporate-information/about-the-board/public-services-reform-\(scotland\)-act-2010/](https://nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/corporate-information/about-the-board/public-services-reform-(scotland)-act-2010/)

Published information retains **aggregate** payment data for payroll deductions paid to HMRC and SPPA in respect of tax, national insurance, and pension scheme payments.

Employees in receipt of Remuneration > £150,000

2.6. During the 2023/24 financial year, there were 29 employees in receipt of remuneration more than £150,000, comprised of 29 clinical staff and no non-clinical staff.

3. Section 32 Disclosures

In line with Section 32 of the Public Service Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, NHS Borders has a statutory duty to act in ways which contribute to the achievement of sustainable economic growth for the local population. In doing so, NHS Borders recognises that this encompasses economic, social and environmental wellbeing, and is closely aligned with the principles of public value, prevention, and the stewardship of public resources.

Sustainable Growth

Under Section 32(1)(a) of the Act, NHS Borders must publish as soon as is reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year a statement of the steps it has taken during that financial year to promote and increase sustainable growth through the exercise of its functions. Our statement for 2023/24 is set out below.

The NHS Borders Anchor Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026 was submitted to the Scottish Government in 2023. The Anchor Strategic Plan describes how resources are spent locally and how NHS Borders can help influence inequalities faced in our local area.

NHS Borders are committed to building healthier and wealthier communities, as well as making a social impact. This can be achieved through a number of initiatives:

Widening access to quality work

- NHS Borders is a Living wage accredited employer
- NHS offering an increased number of Modern Apprenticeships
- Project Search providing employment and learning opportunities for young people with a disability
- Widening access to medical careers through mock interviews with local high school students

Purchasing more locally and for social benefit

- NHS Scotland Community Benefit Market Place Portal

Using buildings and spaces to support communities

- Key worker accommodation for NHS and SBC staff in Langlee, Galashiels
- Living Locally – a rural approach to the urban concept of “15 Minute Neighbourhoods”

Working more closely with local partners

- Money Worries App developed through NHS Borders Health Improvement Team partnering with Public Involvement, Scottish Borders Council, Citizens Advice Bureau, SBSEC, Department of Work and Pensions, TD1 Youth Hub voluntary organisation
- Work with Borders Community Action - Third Sector Interface
- Money Guiders Training – NHSB partnership with Citizens Advice Scotland, Money & Pensions Service
- Public Health Scotland Community Benefits Gateway Portal
- School Holiday Programmes
- Partnership work with Borders Additional Needs Group and other Community Hubs e.g. Burnfoot Community Futures
- Scottish Borders Home Energy Forum
- Community Learning & Development Strategic Partnership
- Food Strategy/Food Conversation
- Working with Local Employability Partnership

Reducing environmental impact

- Climate action network in Borders funding
- Borders Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation report due for completion October 2023

Sustainability and Environmental Reporting

Under Section 32(1)(a) of the Act, NHS Borders must publish as soon as is reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year a statement of the steps it has taken during that financial year to improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy in the exercise of its functions. Our statement for 2023/24 is set out below.

The Scottish Government requires NHS Boards to meet 3 key financial targets: a Revenue Resource Limit, a Capital Resource Limit, and a Cash Requirement. During 2023/24 we delivered all three targets.

NHS Borders General Fund reported an outturn position of £0.17m at 31 March 2024 which included £15.5m of brokerage support from The Scottish Government. NHS Borders achieved 74.8% of its £5m recurring savings challenge, with £3.74m savings achieved in the year on a recurring basis. Despite a favourable position being reported, significant financial challenges were experienced during the year and are expected to continue while recovery actions are agreed with the Scottish

Government. We have continued to face increasing costs and experienced operational pressures which have in turn impacted our delivery of savings.

NHS Borders continues to be committed to the financial improvement programme which focuses on cash-releasing savings across the service, through local efficiency schemes and service redesign. Further work continues to improve productivity in hospital flow, theatre efficiency and outpatient capacity. These activities are intended to mitigate future cost growth by improving patient access and addressing increasing demand for services through productivity gain.

NHS Borders continue to share services and resources within NHS Scotland where possible and are supported by NHS Lothian in delivering our Human Resources. During 2023/24 we continued to work collaboratively with other NHS Boards, with the common goal of achieving efficiencies and financial sustainability in an increasingly challenging financial environment.

During 2023/24 NHS Borders continued to progress with the implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS) within the organisation which supports our on-going commitment to prioritise the quality of service delivery and provide the framework for how we lead and deliver our services moving forward.

NHS Borders remains committed to tackling Climate Change as set out in The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 originally set out measures adopted by the Scottish Government to reduce emissions in Scotland by at least 80% by 2050. The Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 amended this longer-term target to net-zero by 2045, five years in advance of the rest of the UK. In 2020 „The Climate Change (Scotland) Amendment order came into force to reflect this and now requires NHS Boards to report on their progress in delivering their emissions reduction targets.

In February 2023 the Health Board published its second annual climate and sustainability report. This report describes the level of emissions currently reported against our estate, together with the actions we are taking in relation to adaptation and mitigation of climate change, and our wider duties in relation to biodiversity and sustainable development. You can access this report at the following link:

[NHS Borders Climate and Sustainability Report](#)