

Freedom of Information request 177-22

Request

I am looking for information regarding the use of locum doctors by your health board for the financial years 2017/18 to 2021/22. By 'locum doctors' I mean any medical doctor employed through an agency or through an NHS bank, rather than by the health board. I would be grateful if these questions could be treated as separate FOIs.

In particular, can I request the following for the financial years 2017/18 to 2021/22:

- 1) The total locum agency spend, with a breakdown for locum doctors working in both acute settings and in primary care;
- 2) The total locum agency spend for doctors working in Accident and Emergency/ Emergency Departments;
- 3) The total number of shifts worked by locum doctors, with a breakdown by acute and primary care.
- 4) Please provide the 10 highest amounts of money paid by the Health Board to a locum doctor for working a single shift.
- 5) Names of each agency used by the Health Board to provide locum doctors.
- 6) Total amount of money paid by the Health Board to each of those agencies.

Response

1. The total spend within the Acute setting over the requested financial years is as follows:

- 2017/18 - £20,160
- 2018/19 - £164,928
- 2019/20 - £96,413
- 2020/21 - £190,652
- 2021/22 - £193,765

NHS Borders only use GP locums in an acute setting within our Out of Hours service therefore information for locum GP's within a Primary Care setting is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

2. The totals noted above were worked within the Out of Hours Department and Borders Urgent Care Centre.
3. Please see the total shifts worked by locum doctors in an acute setting:
 - 2017/18 – Due to a change in reporting systems, NHS Borders does not hold the data for this period of time therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
 - 2018-2019 - 45 shifts
 - 2019-2020 - 94 shifts
 - 2020-2021 - 133 shifts
 - 2021-2022 - 170 shifts

4. The board does not hold the data in a format that allows this question to be answered, and therefore calculates that the work required to provide the information would exceed the amount prescribed for responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Under Section 12(1) Excessive cost of compliance, of the Act, we are not obliged to provide you with the information.

5 & 6. The table below shows the suppliers and the total amount paid to suppliers in each of the financial years requested.

Supplier Name	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Grand Total
Head Resourcing Limited		£ 12,750	£ 82,446	£ 79,585	£ 59,173	£333,954
Mbi Medical Recruitment Ltd				£ 3,072		£ 3,072
Medecho Limited		£17,603				£ 17,603
Mp Locums Healthcare Ltd		£ 13,836		£ 3,980		£ 17,816
Pertemps Medical Limited	£ 13,976	£ 77,976	£ 21,520	£ 56,971	£ 58,908	£229,351
Pertemps Recruitment Partnership Ltd		£ 1,320				£ 1,320
Reed Personnel Services		£ 28,073	£ 14,882			£ 42,954

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 **177-22** 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.