

Freedom of Information request 614-22

Request

This is an information request relating to MRIs for overweight patients.

Please include the information for each of the following financial years; 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22:

1. The number of patients within the remit of the Trust who have had to be sent to an external, or alternative MRI machine due to being overweight
2. The annual cost of using these alternative or external MRIs
3. Where the MRIs are (for example, at specialist hospitals)

Response

1. NHS Borders do not record this level of detail, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.

NHS Borders had an MRI scanner replacement in October 2021. The current MRI scanner at Borders General Hospital is a wider bore scanner and has a weight limit of 250kg. To our knowledge there hasn't been any scanning failures due to body habitus/weight since October 2021.

2. As NHS Borders do not record this level of detail we cannot provide costs, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
3. Prior to October 2021 patients who could not undergo MRI due to body habitus/weight within NHS Borders would be directly referred by their consultant to NHS Lothian for MRI or if appropriate would undergo an alternative imaging modality within NHS Borders.

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 **614-22** 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.

