

## Freedom of Information request 20-20

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### Request

1. Please provide the number of screening patients who are resident in your health board and had a colonoscopy in the period 1 Jan-31 Dec 2018.
2. Does your health board outsource colonoscopies or flexible sigmoidoscopies to third party providers?
  - 2.1. If yes, what proportion were colonoscopies and what were flexible sigmoidoscopies in 2018?
  - 2.2. If yes, how much does your board spend per procedure?
3. Approximately what proportion of patients in the endoscopy unit are eligible/claim travel reimbursement?
  - 3.1 What is the size of the average claim?

### Response

1. For the period 1 January to December 2018 332 patients with a positive bowel screening result received a colonoscopy.
2. NHS Borders do not outsource sigmoidoscopies but have used a third party provider for colonoscopies in the period in question.
  - 2.1 In the year 2018 1.3% of the total number of colonoscopies were carried out by a third party provider.
  - 2.2 NHS Borders did not pay this provider per procedure therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
3. For those patients who are eligible to claim travel reimbursement, we check that they are eligible (e.g. receiving benefits) and then check they have attended for an appointment or procedure. However, we do not record the reason for the patient's attendance or which department they attended. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held and cannot be provided.

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 **20-20** 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.

