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Date: 26 April 2022  
Our ref: K: FOI/Ref: 2022-000068  
Direct Line: 0131 275 6807  
Email: [nss.pcf-foi@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.pcf-foi@nhs.scot)

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Reference: FOI-2022-000068 – Cross border referrals**

I refer to your freedom of information request that we received on 30 March 2022 requesting the following information:

**I am looking for information regarding the number of cross-border referrals made during the last five years.**

I can advise you that we have now completed the search of our records and can provide you with the following information:

**1) Breakdown of cross-border referrals for last five years, broken down by health board?**

Please see breakdown below (by health board) of approved funding requests for referrals for specialised/highly specialist care over the past five (5) financial years. There are a few caveats around the data:

- Breakdown of referrals is the number of 'approved' funding requests received by NSD. It does not indicate the number of patients.
- Although funding is approved, the patient may decide they no longer wish to proceed with treatment and NSD does not keep a record of patient's journey.
- Territorial Health Boards may decide to directly refer to specialised/highly specialist services without seeking NSD risk share funding and therefore responsible for these costs.
- Data potentially identifiable due to low numbers has been redacted from the below tables



**Headquarters**

Gyle Square, 1 South Gyle Crescent, EDINBURGH EH12 9EB

Chairperson Keith Redpath  
Chief Executive Mary Morgan

NHS Board	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Ayrshire & Arran	48	49	47	19	25
Borders	█	█	█	█	█
Dumfries & Galloway	27	15	14	16	9
Fife	33	44	38	24	42
Forth Valley	40	49	34	20	24
Grampian	56	47	57	46	54
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	139	157	165	101	108
Highland	40	41	31	19	43
Lanarkshire	81	84	78	50	65
Lothian	122	122	139	78	113
Orkney	█	█	█	█	█
Shetland	█	█	█	█	█
Tayside	36	47	44	38	34
Western Isles	█	█	█	█	█
Unknown	-	-	1	2	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>535</b>

## 2) Total cost of these referrals – both by health board and total?

Please see breakdown below (by health board) ledger figures for all Out of Area costs (excluding those covered by the main contract with NHS England – these cannot be split by HB)

NHS Board	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Ayrshire & Arran	1313004	148470	444797	245229	88501
Borders	33470	75833	61112	14905	16491
Dumfries & Galloway	121061	29942	200479	94368	266686
Fife	594613	1305561	1368412	1221300	1424554
Forth Valley	655267	477533	312334	243953	76692
Grampian	1541105	2485887	1266999	1251924	744354
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	1929097	1640608	965759	1297313	1316718
Highland	1071778	1900834	1850873	1580275	1749439
Lanarkshire	1242294	1207678	915558	849342	555721
Lothian	1675815	1798313	1426220	1456440	1786274
Orkney	2208	1010	1583	25878	3860
Shetland	20555	5397	165	850	897
Tayside	468932	483448	161160	88239	167921
Western Isles	27060	898	1446	2315	7856
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10696258</b>	<b>11561410</b>	<b>8976897</b>	<b>8372331</b>	<b>8205964</b>

## 3) The locations in which patients were referred? (For example, was it to a specific hospital in NHS England?)

- Highly Specialist Services – A list of services and providers can be found on NHS England's website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-providers-of-highly-specialised-services/>
- Gender Reassignment Surgery – A list of providers can be found: <https://www.ngicns.scot.nhs.uk/nhsservices/adults/surgery/surgery-providers/>
- Ophthalmic Oncology (low intensity proton beam) – The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust
- Heart & Lung Transplantation – The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Freeman)
- IMD (although an IMD Service for Scotland was established in 2018 in Glasgow, a small number of legacy patients are still seen in England) - Cambridge University NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust)

- CAR-T Cell Therapy - [NHS England » CAR-T Therapy](#)
- Specialist Mental Health:
  - Adolescent Medium Secure – Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (Alnwood)
  - Adult Autism – Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (Mitford) / South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
  - Child and Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS) – Birmingham Women’s & Children’s NHS Foundation Trust / Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust / Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
  - Women’s High Secure – Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Rampton)
  - Learning Disabilities Medium Secure Care – Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust (Calderstones) / Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (Northgate) / Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (Roseberry Park)
  - Deaf Mental Health Service – Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust / Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (John Denmark Unit)

#### 4) The types of procedures/care provided?

As mentioned above, NSD provides funding for residents of Scotland to access specialist and highly specialist services which are not provided in Scotland. The types of referrals approved by NSD are normally included within the list of ‘prescribed services’ issued by NHS England ([prescribed-specialised-services-manual.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)).

I trust you will find the information of assistance and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the

Head of Information and Cyber Security  
 Digital and Security  
 NHS National Services Scotland  
 Headquarters  
 Gyle Square  
 1 South Gyle Crescent  
 Edinburgh  
 EH12 9EB

or at the email address [nss.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.foi@nhs.scot) within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

If after a review you are still unhappy, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via their [online application form](#).

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely



Alan Davies  
 Business Support Manager