

Freedom of Information request 331-16

Request

I would like to request the following information:

1. Confirmation or otherwise that all donations that are given to the Margaret Kerr Unit are solely given to the Margaret Kerr Unit and not other palliative funds.
2. List of what the MKU donations have been spent on
3. Current financial balance

Response

1. The Margaret Kerr Unit (MKU) is an in-patient facility for patients requiring palliative care, however the services provided by the medical, nursing and other staff teams from MKU are not restricted to those patients within the unit. The teams support the delivery of palliative care in other wards within the Borders General Hospital as well as in Community Hospitals or at home. An endowment fund was set up to ringfence the money donated during the appeal to build the Margaret Kerr Unit but once complete and operational this was combined with the existing palliative care fund. As such there is only one palliative care endowment fund in our portfolio, which is known as the Margaret Kerr Unit and Palliative Care Fund (Fund 021). Monies held within this fund are used to support the charitable purpose of enhancing healthcare provided by the Palliative Care Team for patients in the Scottish Borders. It is the responsibility of appointed fund-holders to ensure expenditure meets the charitable purpose. The fund-holders for the Margaret Kerr Unit and Palliative Care Fund are members of the palliative care team, they are closest to the service and indeed the patients therefore are best placed to understand how funds can be used to enhance the patient experience and develop staff.
2. Donations to the Margaret Kerr Unit Appeal fund during the appeal period (from financial years 2012/13 to 2014/15), were used to support the capital construction project to create the Unit.

Ongoing expenditure from the Margaret Kerr Unit and Palliative Care Fund covers a wide range of items to enhance patient care provided to Palliative Care patients. Typical items of expenditure benefiting Margaret Kerr Unit patients and their families include enhancing the patient environment, provision of wifi, free beverages and reading materials. Fund expenditure that can benefit palliative care patients in the Margaret Kerr Unit as well as in other settings, include complementary aromatherapy treatments as well as additional staff training & development.

3. The balance as at 31st July 2016 for the Palliative Care Fund 021 is £874,656.84.

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 **331-16** 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.