

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) 2002

Thank you for your email, dated 7 April where you requested information through the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please find below responses to the questions you raised.

Q1 Since the legislation was legally commenced on 1 October 2023, how has NHS Dumfries and Galloway paid due regard to community benefit in non-emergency patient contracts, and the extent to which such contracts will improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing, to comply with its duty under Part 10, Section 120 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019?

- *Due consideration of Community Benefits is always included when creating a specification for any local quotations or tenders run by NHS Dumfries & Galloway.*
- *We also add the paragraph below onto any quotes or tenders we run to encourage suppliers to register & review on the NSS Community Benefits Gateway portal*

Q2 Since the legislation was legally commenced on 1 October 2023, how has NHS Dumfries and Galloway worked with bodies which provide community transport services in its area in providing non-emergency patient transport services to comply with its duty under Part 10, Section 121, Subsection 1 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019?

*The Board has maintained a seat on SWestrans Board for last 20 yrs
The Board is also active participant in the PSP hosted in Third Sector D&G working closely with <http://communitytransportdq.co.uk/network/membership-of-the-network/>*

Q3 Since the legislation was legally commenced on 1 October 2023, how has NHS Dumfries and Galloway reported on:

- the steps it has taken to comply with these duties under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019;
- the extent to which non-emergency patient transport services in its area have been effective and cost-effective; and,
- further action it proposes to take to comply with these duties?

NHS Dumfries and Galloway do not hold this information; therefore, this request is refused under section 17 of FOISA. Reports are provided to the Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership which are published on their website. The most recent being: <https://dghscp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Item-8-Community-Transport-Hub-Update.pdf> from January 2025

Q4 In each of the last 5 years, how much did NHS Dumfries and Galloway spend on non-emergency patient transport?

Financial Year				
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
298,085	282,814	295,939	213,033	234,742

Q5 In each of the last 5 years, how much did NHS Dumfries and Galloway spend with private taxi firms on non-emergency patient transport?

Financial Year				
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
312,762	337,480	418,971	602,361	584,827

Q6 In each of the last 5 years, how much did NHS Dumfries and Galloway spend with non-profit organisations which provide community transport services on non-emergency patient transport?

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
31,347	40,010	40,232	35,585	47,093

Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Dumfries and Galloway has dealt with your request, you have a right to request a review of our actions and decisions in relation to your request, and you have a right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

A request for review must be made within forty working days from 07 May 2025 and should, in the first instance, be in writing to Julie White, Chief Executive, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Ground Floor North, Mountainhall Treatment Centre, Bankend Road, Dumfries DG1 4AP or by e-mail to dg.feedback2@nhs.scot. You must provide your name, an address for correspondence, details of your original request and why you want a review.

If our decision is unchanged following review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you have the right to make a formal appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. Requests for appeal should be made in writing to the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, telephone 01334 464610, fax 01334 464611 or email: enquiries@FOI.scot

Yours sincerely



Freedom of Information Officer