

Freedom of Information (FOI)

The Balfour, Foreland Road,
Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NZ
www.ohb.scot.nhs.uk



David Kelly

Via email: david.kelly@ctauk.org

Date: 06/05/2025

Tel: 01856 888 220

Email: ork.foirequests@nhs.scot

Dear David Kelly,

RE: Freedom of Information Request 202526/023 – Non-emergency patient transport

Your Query and NHSO Response	Date of Request	April 2025			
<p>1. Since the legislation was legally commenced on 1 October 2023, how has NHS Orkney 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?</p> <p>NHS Orkney does not have relevant contracts in place. NHS Orkney ensure all our vehicles are efficient in terms of low efficiency and can access the low emission zones from an environmental perspective.</p>					
<p>2. Since the legislation was legally commenced on 1 October 2023, how has NHS Orkney 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?</p> <p>No.</p>					
<p>3. Since the legislation was legally commenced on 1 October 2023, how has NHS Orkney reported on:</p> <p>NHS Orkney has not reported on any of the below since the legislation was legally commenced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">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?					
<p>4. In each of the last 5 years, how much did NHS Orkney spend on non-emergency patient transport?</p> <p>Please see below, which includes spend on milage claimed by patients or patient escorts, bus fares claimed by patients or patient escorts and a contract for the supply of a transfer minibus at another healthboard (again used by both patients and escorts).</p>					
	Financial Year				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Minibus transfer service in Grampian, claimed milage, bus fares	£82,173	£88,117	£81,807	£91,955	£95,893

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

Please see below. Please note that the spend includes patient and escort claimed expenses.

	Financial Year				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Taxis	£14,375	£18,036	£27,113	£24,282	£20,897

6. In each of the last 5 years, how much did NHS Orkney spend with non-profit organisations which provide community transport services on non-emergency patient transport?

Nil.

I hope this helps with your request.

NHS Orkney is a small remote and rural health board within Scotland. All responses to Freedom of Information requests are collated in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Under section 20(1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Orkney has dealt with your request, you have a right to ask for a review of our actions and decisions in relation to your request.

A request for review should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter and NHS Orkney will reply within 20 working days of receipt. Review requests should be sent in writing to FOI officer, NHS Orkney, The Balfour, Foreland Road, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NZ or by e-mail via ork.foirequests@nhs.scot.

Requests for appeal should be made in writing to: Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS. Telephone: 01334 464610, Email: enquiries@foi.scot.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Officer
NHS Orkney

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