

Date: 04 December 2024
Our ref: K: FOI/Ref: 2024-000376
Email: NSS.DevServicesFOI@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Reference: FOI-2024-000376 – Gender Reassignment Surgery.

I refer to your freedom of information request that we received on 06 November 2024. We have now completed the search of our records and can provide you with the following information:

To whom it may concern, please treat the following as an FOI request.

I am aware that in conjunction with NHS England National Services Scotland commissions the provision of male to female and female to male genital surgery and male to female specialist chest reconstructive surgery from providers within England. As such, can you tell me: how many patients from Scotland have undergone male to female and female to male genital surgery and male to female specialist chest reconstructive surgery from providers within England in EACH of the last 10 financial years and so far this financial year?

Please find attached Appendix 1 – Gender reassignment surgeries, detailing the number of patient requests for surgery in the last 10 financial years as per above request.

Please note the following caveats regarding the data:

- National Services Scotland (NSS), National Services Division (NSD) fund gender reassignment surgery under 3 broad categories; male-to-female lower genital surgery, female-to-male lower genital surgery and specialist chest reconstruction (masculinising chest only). NSD does not capture procedure specifics.
- NSS does not keep an end-to-end record of the patient's journey and therefore we are unable to advise how many surgeries have taken place. We can provide data on the number of gender reassignment funding requests.
- The numbers do not include funding requests for revision/unscheduled aftercare.
- Territorial Health Boards may decide to directly refer to specialised/highly specialist services without seeking NSD risk share funding and are therefore responsible for these costs.
- NSD has no role in the authorisation of funding for planned state healthcare treatment in an EU country or Switzerland. This is funded via either the planned treatment scheme (S2 funding) route or the EU directive route (in place prior to 2021) which is managed by Territorial Health Boards in conjunction with the Department of Health.



Chair Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Mary Morgan

*NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the
Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service*

Please break the figures down to show any age bandings you can for the patients who underwent this surgery. Please also break the figures down to show how many surgeries in EACH year were male to female, and separately, female to male

Under Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act 2002 (FOISA), NHS NSS has withheld this information in line with Caldicott Principles due to patient numbers falling below 5, providing this information would risk making the data identifiable.

Please provide details as to the total amount given in funding EACH year for the surgeries detailed above.

Please find attached Appendix 2 – Gender reassignment total funding. These figures are the total costs of the gender surgical service provision, rather than the costs of surgeries. They include costs for the service set up and development, including staff training. Since 2020/21, the figures also include costs for Scotland's contribution to the Gender Dysphoria National Referral Support Service (GDNRSS). GDNRSS has been established to process referrals and provide advice and support for all individuals from across the UK.

Please note the following caveats regarding the data:

- The numbers provided are reflective of the number of 'approved' NSD funding applications submitted by the 14 territorial NHS Boards in Scotland. It does not indicate the number of actual patients as an individual may have more than one need or request.
- Although funding has been approved, the patient or their clinician may decide they no longer wish to or need to proceed with investigation or treatment and NSD does not keep an end-to-end record of the patient's journey.
- The numbers do not include funding requests for revision/unscheduled aftercare.
- Territorial Health Boards may decide to directly refer to specialised/highly specialist services without seeking NSD risk share funding and are therefore responsible for these costs.
- NSD has no role in the authorisation of funding for planned state healthcare treatment in an EU country or Switzerland. This is funded via either the S2 funding route or the EU directive route (in place prior to 2021) which is managed by Territorial Health Boards in conjunction with the Department of Health.

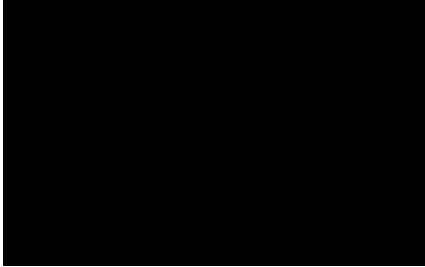


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If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely,



Chair Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Mary Morgan

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