



Freedom of Information Request

24 November 2022

Question

I would like to know:

1. Please could you state for each of the years 2019 - 2022 so far the number of times taxis have been used to bring patients to hospital due to a shortage of available ambulances?
2. Please can you state the total cost of these taxis for each year.

Answer

1. NHS Scotland Health Board contracted taxi service providers used for the transportation of patients as follows; The service for the majority (as noted) only commenced in earnest this calendar year. These are suppliers that have passed due diligence via a formal public sector procurement route and are compliant with all appropriate security and indemnity insurance requirements.

There are occasions in which the clinician deems the patient as requiring further assessment within a hospital or care facility but does not require a conveying ambulance resource to travel. Initially the clinician will explore the options for suitable and appropriate alternative transport such as self-transport, family transport or the use of a taxi.

Please see below the number of taxis used to convey patients to hospital between September 2021 – April 2022.

2021 – 218

2022 – 1,670

2. Please see below the total cost of taxi for 2021 and 2022
2021 - £2,252.76

2022 - £35,228.22