

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004

Date received	09/11/2022	Subject	Cost of Vaccination / Screening Invitations	
Date passed	24/11/2022	Respond by	30/11/2022	
Passed to	Public Health		FOI number	2022-545
Category of information requested	Communication - Services Communication - Engagement			

Question/s to be answered

1. What is the cost to NHS Shetland for sending Vaccination / Screening Invitations from 1 January 2021 till 9 November 2022?

As part of the winter 2022 Covid vaccination campaign 4282 letters at a cost of £3,211.50 were sent out to 50-64 year olds.

With regards to screening and other vaccination letters, in accordance with FOISA s 17(1), NHS Shetland confirms that it does not hold the information requested. As:

Screening letters are generated nationally and therefore an FOI request would need to be sent to the national programs you can find a list of them here:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/screening>

Childhood vaccination letters, even when they list an NHS Shetland return address, are also generated nationally. As far as we are aware Public Health Scotland generate them and you can submit an FOI request to them at this email address: PHS.FOI@phs.scot

For the initial Covid vaccination programme, the 2021-22 autumn winter flu, and Covid programme, and the 2022 spring booster programme, we offered vaccinations to everyone in Shetland who was eligible by phoning them in the first instance. If we did not have phone numbers or if we could not get hold of people by phone then we asked the GP practices for help. If they could not provide us with numbers that people answered, then we sent letters or ask GP practices to send letters to offer the vaccination to individuals who were eligible. This was on an ad hoc basis to individual patients throughout this whole period of time and we do not have a list of those individuals who were sent letters. GP practices may have chosen to send out letters to their own patients as well and there were some nationally produced letters (eg to parents of at risk children).

In the 2022-23 campaign, we did the same as above, except for one of the priority groups. We chose to proactively send out letters offering vaccination to the 50-64 year old cohort (because experience showed that it often took several phone calls, and often we could not get them on the phone). As we had received a complete list of this cohort of people from the national programme team, we know how many people were on the list to be sent a letter and can therefore say how many letters were sent and the cost of those letters.