

## Freedom of Information request 356-17

---

### Request

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA):

- Does the health board have a policy on providing sanitary products during menstruation, for free, to inpatients in hospitals/clinics?

If yes, can you please provide me with copies of this policy and any relevant documentation relating to how it this policy is implemented – including memos and minutes of meetings where the policy has been discussed in the last 3 years.

- Can you provide details of what happens if a patient runs short of sanitary products during a hospital stay? Is there a process by which the hospital/clinic in question will provide these products – if yes, please provide full details of what the process is.

### Response

Within NHS Borders currently there is no written formal policy.

Patients are provided with sanitary products free of charge during their admission to hospital when required. Tampons are not provided.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or [foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk).

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **356-17** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.