

Freedom of Information request 507-18

Request

1. Does your NHS board provide free female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) to in-patients?
2. Does your NHS board have a policy covering the provision of female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) to in-patients? If yes, please provide this policy.
3. How many premises with inpatient beds are there in your NHS board, and at how many of these premises are female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) available to purchase on site? For example, in shops or bathroom vending-machines.
4. How much did your NHS board spend (£) on female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) in the following financial years:
 - 2017/18
 - 2016/17
 - 2015/16
 - 2014/15
 - 2013/14
 - 2012/13

And, where possible, please provide a breakdown of this spending against the products' NHS Supply Chain catalogue codes.

5. How many inpatient beds were there in your NHS board for each of the following financial years?
 - 2017/18
 - 2016/17
 - 2015/16
 - 2014/15
 - 2013/14
 - 2012/13
6. Please provide a list of all items that are supplied to in-patients free of charge in your NHS board, and a list of all items which you advise in-patients to bring with them for an overnight or extended stay.

Response

1. NHS Borders provides all inpatients free sanitary pads if required.
2. NHS Borders do not have a policy regarding the supply of sanitary products.

3. Sanitary products are available from all NHS inpatient clinical areas – if an area does not have its own supply they are readily available from other ward areas. There are no vending machines in hospital toilets that are stocked with sanitary products. The WRVS shop within the Borders General stocks sanitary products if patients would prefer to purchase their own favoured products.
4. NHS Borders have incurred no spend on any sanitary products (excluding maternity sanitary products) to date. The following items have now been added to the catalogue to allow ordering of sanitary products for the year 2018/19:

045853	TOWEL SANITARY PRESS ON MAXI SST30P PACK 12
098828	TOWEL SANITARY SUPER SST21P PACK 10
000845	BAG SANITARY TOWEL XNHS9710009 CASE 50
115327	TAMPAX REGULAR 20 TAM279E TAMPAX TAM279E PACK 20
118731	TAMPAX SUPER TAM280V TAM280V PACK 20

5. Please find below the number of inpatient beds within NHS Borders in the years requested:

Year	BGH	Community Hospitals	Mental Health Units	Total
2012'13	275	105	80	460
2013'14	273	92	70	435
2014'15	280	92	70	442
2015'16	279	92	66	437
2016'17	274	87	65	426
2017'18	274	87	63	424

Notes:

Average number of beds over period

Source: ISD(S)1

6. Patients are requested to bring all their personal washing items as such items are all single use items. If a patient is admitted without such items they will be provided with something suitable.

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.

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 **507-18** 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.