

Freedom of Information request 508-18

Request and Response

I am writing to make several requests for information from your Health Board under the Freedom of Information Act.

- 1) Does your Health Board have a policy on the use of unlicensed medicines? Please Answer Yes or No. If yes, please provide a copy of the policy.

Please find below a copy of NHS Borders policy on the use of unlicensed medicines:



IPTR Policy - Issue 3
v.1 May 2016_1.pdf

- 2) Does your Health Board have a policy or protocol on obtaining informed consent from patients when an unlicensed medicine is used? Please answer Yes or No. If yes, please provide copies of all relevant documentation including copies of template informed consent materials used to consent patients where an unlicensed medicine is to be administered.

Included in policy above.

- 3) Please state which Board level job role(s) is (are) responsible for patient safety and consenting.

Everyone is responsible for patient safety and consent is the responsibility of the prescriber.

- 4) Does your Health Board have, or intend to introduce, a policy that makes compounded bevacizumab routinely available to treat wet age-related macular degeneration? If yes please supply a copy of your policy.

Not currently

- 5) Does your Health Board currently have a wholly NHS owned pharmacy with an aseptic unit for compounding/aliquotting medicines? Please answer Yes or NO. If yes, is this NHS pharmacy the same legal entity as that of your hospital Health Board?

Yes, NHS Borders has an aseptic unit situated within the Borders General Hospital.

- 6) Does your Health Board currently host on its premises a privately owned pharmacy with an aseptic unit for compounding/aliquotting medicines? Please answer Yes or NO. If yes, please provide details of the third party provider of your pharmacy services.

No.

- 7) Over the past two years has your Health Board, on more than one occasion, used compounded Avastin (bevacizumab) for ophthalmic use? Please answer Yes or No.

No.

If yes to Q5 or Q6:

- 8) Is the pharmacy referred to above in Q5 or Q 6 currently providing, or potentially able to provide, compounded Avastin (bevacizumab) for ophthalmic use? Please answer Yes or No

Yes

- 9) Does the pharmacy referred to above in Q5 or Q6 currently hold an MHRA license for the manufacture of specials? Please answer Yes or No

No

If yes to Q5 or Q6 but no to Q9:

- 10) When was the pharmacy referred to above in answer to Q5 or Q6 last inspected by the CQC?

Not applicable.

If you answered no to questions Q5 or Q6 above, but yes to question Q7:

- 11) Please provide information regarding from whom your Health Board has or obtained/purchased compounded Avastin (bevacizumab). If you cannot provide the name of any commercial supplier, please provide as much information as possible.

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 **508-18** 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.