

Freedom of Information request 532-18

Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request information relating to sonographers providing information to prospective parents about the gender of their unborn baby.

Please provide:

1. Any policy document that shows the NHS health board's policy about whether or not a sonographer will look for the sex of the baby and whether that information can be provided to prospective parents. If the policy varies from hospital to hospital, please provide the policy for each hospital. If the policy varies when an expectant mother is expecting twins, triplets etc. please also provide that information.
2. If the policy has changed in the last ten years, or is due to change, please tell me the date the policy changed (or is due to change) and what the change was or will be.
3. Please also tell me whether anyone has taken legal action against the health board in the last ten years in relation to information provided by a sonographer to prospective parents about the sex of their unborn baby. If there has been legal action please tell me the date, the reason and the outcome of the legal action.

Response

1. NHS Borders currently does not have a policy document but if parents wish to know foetal sex at Anomaly Scan and the sonographer can visualise this then the information is shared with the parents. We do not scan for the primary purpose of identifying foetal sex.
2. No current policy this has not changed since routine Anomaly scanning was introduced. No anticipated change to this.
3. NHS Borders has had no claims made against them in relation to information provided by a sonographer to prospective parents regarding the sex of their unborn baby.

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 **532-18** 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.

