

## Freedom of Information request 546-18

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### Request

Another person's FOI request has highlighted that NHS maternity wards in the Borders have previously admitted Bounty reps, and that the contract ran until April 2018 (Ref: <http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/media/526645/foi-618-17-Response.pdf>).

My request is in 4 parts:

- (Q1) Are Bounty reps CURRENTLY permitted onto Borders General Hospital maternity wards?
- (Q2) If yes to Q1, what hours are they permitted to enter the wards - is it restricted to public visitor hours, or are they permitted outside of visitor hours?
- (Q3) If yes to Q1, is it in an opt-in system for patients? (Similar to the one recently switched to by Ipswich hospital, where mothers who have just given birth have to explicitly approve being approached by Bounty sales reps in order for the rep to be permitted into the ward)
- (Q4) If yes to Q1, are there any plans to not renew or terminate Bounty's contract early as a result of the recent press coverage and petition which has highlighted the company's predatory selling practices and GDPR breaches? –.

(Refs: [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/new-mum-wants-intrusive-and-inappropriate-bounty-reps-banned-from-postnatal-wards\\_uk\\_5b7bbaa5e4b018b93e971a4b](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/new-mum-wants-intrusive-and-inappropriate-bounty-reps-banned-from-postnatal-wards_uk_5b7bbaa5e4b018b93e971a4b) and [https://www.mumsnet.com/Talk/mumsnet\\_campaigns/3405749-MNHQ-here-Bounty-Mutiny-get-Bounty-and-commercial-reps-off-wards-UPDATE](https://www.mumsnet.com/Talk/mumsnet_campaigns/3405749-MNHQ-here-Bounty-Mutiny-get-Bounty-and-commercial-reps-off-wards-UPDATE) and <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/227744>)

### Response

1. Bounty representatives are currently permitted into BGH maternity ward.
2. They are currently permitted to enter the wards between 9am and 4pm but usually visit in the morning.
3. No, although Bounty reps ask ward staff who they can and can't visit.
4. No plan, most women who use the maternity services wish to receive bounty packs. They are able to decline and their wishes respected.

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 **546-18** 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.