

Freedom of Information request 624-18

Request

We are conducting research into the provision of specialist services for children who stammer in each region across the UK as part of our charity's commitment to improving access to effective intervention.

I understand that frontline health services are delivered by NHS Health Boards across Scotland, and so would like to make a freedom of information request to NHS Borders as detailed below.

Could you inform us of whether service provision is available for children who stammer (between ages three and eighteen)?

This includes information about the structure of the Speech & Language Therapy service commissioned and whether there are specialist services available specifically to children who stammer, e.g. dysfluency pathways.

Where possible, please include details relating to any specified criteria for accessing this service, i.e. age range, community/clinic based service, exclusion criteria.

Response

Yes, there is service provision for children who stammer. The community based service (to maximise parental involvement) does not operate exclusion criteria and will assess each individual in terms of both impairment and impact.

Due to small numbers there is no specialist service, however, specific groups for dysfluency have been run in the past (the service remains flexible and will adapt to need in the local area).

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 **624-18** 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.