

Freedom of Information request 41-19

Request

1. What is the health board policy regarding how often laundry is uplifted and how often is this reviewed?
2. How many vehicles are in operation to transport a) contaminated laundry b) clean linen, please detail figures over the last 5 years broken down by year?
3. How many times have laundry shortages been reported by the health board over the last 5 years, broken down by year.
4. What is the health board policy regarding reporting laundry shortages? What contingency plans are in place for such an occurrence?

Response

1. The NHS Borders laundry policy is as follows:

Borders General Hospital (Acute) – Daily uplift – reviewed as and when required
Community Hospitals – 3 times weekly – reviewed as and when required

2. Over the last 5 years there have been 2 vehicles in use to transport laundry, these vans are partitioned to be able to collect both contaminated and clean linen.
3. There have never been any shortages reported.
4. There are always 2 days contingency in place at all times. In addition laundry opening hours can be extended if needed to increase linen turnover. In the case of the laundry site being unavailable we would use NHS Lothian facilities.

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 **41-19** 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.