

Freedom of Information request 44-19

Request

1. Does the health board have a policy on providing period products during menstruation, for free, to inpatients in hospitals/clinics? If yes, please provide a copy of this policy.
2. Does the health board have a policy on providing period products for staff, for free? If yes, please provide a copy of this policy.
3. Can you provide details of what happens if a patient runs short of period products during a hospital stay? Is there a process by which the hospital/clinic in question will provide these products – if yes, please provide full details of what the process is.
4. Can you provide information regarding the cost to the health board to provide period products in a) the current financial year (2018/19), and b) projected for the next financial year (2019/20)

Response

1. NHS Borders do not have a policy regarding the supply of sanitary products to inpatients.
2. NHS Borders do not have a policy regarding the supply of sanitary products to staff.
3. Sanitary products are available from all NHS inpatient clinical areas – if an area does not have its own supply they are readily available from other ward areas. There are no vending machines in hospital toilets that are stocked with sanitary products. The WRVS shop within the Borders General stocks sanitary products if patients would prefer to purchase their own favoured products.
4. NHS Borders have incurred no spend on any sanitary products (excluding maternity sanitary products) to date.

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 **44-19** 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.

