

Environmental Information Regulations Request 137-19

Request

1. Please provide monthly figures relating to needle stick injuries between August 2018 till February 2019 sustained by Porter staff at NHS Borders, including Borders General Hospital & other NHS Borders Acute & Community Hospitals.
2. Please provide salary/benefit increases provided to NHS Borders portering staff from August 2018 till February 2019 & if their job descriptions have now changed to include hand balling infectious clinical waste
3. Please provide all correspondence including email exchanges between Derek McAulay of NHS Borders & Bronwyn Bainbridge &/or Wendy Rayner which mention clinical waste &/or Healthcare Environmental Services from August 2018 till February 2019
4. Please provide information as to where clinical waste generated from NHS Borders is being stored & how long it is being stored for from December 2018 till February 2019
5. Please provide evidence that the current contractor, who has been collecting clinical waste from NHS Borders since December 2018 until March 2019, has been audited & checked that it has a Waste Carriers Licence & a Waste permit which allows for collection & storage of clinical waste.
6. Please provide costs charged to NHS Borders for clinical waste collections/disposal from December 2018 till March 2019.

Response

1. The table below details the number of needlestick injuries sustained by Porters between August 2018 and February 2019:

Month	Incidents
August	0
September	0
October	1
November	1
December	0
January	0
February	0

Please note neither of these incidents occurred whilst working with clinical waste.

2. NHS Borders portering staff have not received salary/benefit increases or their job descriptions changed in the period in question.
3. During the period in question there is no recorded correspondence between Derek McAulay and Bronwyn Bainbridge &/or Wendy Rayner. Therefore under Regulation 10(4)(a) of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 this data is not held.

4. Clinical waste is stored as follows:

- Orange waste stream – Average 3-4 days before collection. Bags are stored in a secure shipping-type container.
- Yellow waste stream – 2 weeks before collection. Bags are placed in appropriate leak-proof bins and stored in a secure refrigerated container.
- Sharps – 3-4 days before collection. Placed in appropriate bins and stored in secure area.
- Pharmaceutical – 3-4 days before collection. Placed in appropriate bins and stored in secure area. Additionally, ad hoc collections are available on request.

5. NHS Borders do not hold this information. This information would be held by [National Services Scotland](#), therefore under Regulation 10(4)(a) of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 this data would be accessible elsewhere.

6. There have been no invoices paid for the period December 2018 to March 2019.

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 **137-19** 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.