

## Freedom of Information request 326-19

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### Request

In relation to the number of medications which have been made unavailable since May 2016 could you please provide:

1. Documents circulated to pharmacies detailing medications which have been or will be made unavailable.
2. Any correspondence discussing the medications which have been or are set to be made unavailable and the impact this will have.
3. Any documents or correspondence which discuss Brexit's impending impact on the NHS Board and it's ability to provide medications to patients.

### Clarification Received:

Medications which are not available for prescription. So anything that was previously available on prescription, but now is not.

### Response

1. Please find below documents that have been circulated to pharmacies since May 2016 detailing medications that have been made unavailable on prescription. NHS Borders generate a list of medicines which are prescribable but for which there is either little evidence of benefit or clear evidence of potential harm (coproxamol) and which the Board is therefore no longer willing to fund for new patients, with continuing patients being offered a review and personalised decisions made with their agreement. The preparations will still be available in that GPs are still able to prescribe them, if they wish, on that understanding:



Low\_Benefit\_Drugs.  
pdf



Pharmacy\_Email\_Pre  
scribing\_Bulletins.pdf

2. Please find below correspondence sent to GPs and pharmacies detailing medications which have been or will be made unavailable:



Low\_Value\_Medicine  
\_GP\_Letter\_Jul18.pdf

3. Please find below any documents or correspondence which discuss Brexit's impending impact on the NHS Board and it's ability to provide medications to patients:



SGD\_Brexit\_Medicine  
\_Supply\_Chain.pdf

<https://news.gov.scot/news/update-on-medicine-supplies>

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 **326-19** 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.