

Freedom of Information request 467-19

Request

We are writing to request information relating to certain policies and procedures that is held by NHS Borders Health Board under the above mentioned Act. We would like NHS Borders Health Board to provide us with the following information:

1. The means and mechanism by which medical emergency patients in the emergency department have their heart rate checked.
2. Details of the processes or procedures to be followed, out of hours, by the cardiology departments in tertiary referral hospitals where there is a request from a secondary or referring hospital for transfer of a patient who has a medical diagnosis of severe cardiomyopathy secondary to untreated thyrotoxicosis, and profound cardio-genic shock.
3. Details of the availability of cardiology assessment at secondary or referring hospitals out of hours.

Response

1. As part of normal nursing observations, a patient will have their pulse rate checked. ECG's can also be requested and performed as required.
2. The Borders General Hospital, Melrose is not a tertiary hospital, we refer to NHS Lothian hospitals for patients with these conditions.
3. The On Call Consultant Physician has 24/7 access to senior Cardiology clinicians at NHS Lothian.

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 **467-19** 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.