

Freedom of Information request 3-20

Request

Using the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I would you to provide me with evidence that NHS Borders has conducted equality impact assessments for all of its hospitals regarding accommodating male bodied transwomen on women's wards.

Also under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002,I would like to ask you to provide further details on how the complaints section of this policy will be operationalised with regards to women who do not feel safe or comfortable being accommodated next to male bodied transwomen due their vulnerability, disability, age or having a history of male violence or sexual assault.

Clarification Received:

I would like to know if NHS Borders has conducted any equality impact assessments regarding the new NHS policy of allowing transwomen (biological men who self ID as a woman) to be accommodated on women's wards.

Response

All inpatient wards in BGH are mixed sex (containing same sex bays with both male and female bays) with the exception of Maternity areas. An individual assessment is undertaken for each transgender person being admitted to any ward within the BGH.

All complaints are dealt with on an individual basis and NHS Borders values feedback of all types. The feedback and complaints process is readily accessible on our website here:

<http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/feedback-and-complaints>

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 **3-20** 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.