

## Freedom of Information request 23-20

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### Request

I am a 3rd Year Midwifery student at the University of West of Scotland and I am conducting some research into the readiness of midwives in Scotland to deliver the best quality of care to women who have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

I would be grateful if you could assist me in answering the 5 specific questions below about your health board.

In asking these questions I rely on your goodwill but also on the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

In order to facilitate this request, I should state that I am not seeking detailed statistics or access to any particular documents, but rather I am aiming to roughly gauge the levels of knowledge in treating FGM amongst midwives in Scotland by finding out about clinical guidelines, training available and required and existing experience of de-infibulation within health boards.

Even a one-sentence answer to each question would be extremely helpful to my research.

1. What guidance and training are in place within your NHS Trust to train midwives to care for women who have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?
2. What mandatory training in the care of women who have undergone FGM is required of midwives employed by your health board?
3. What specialist services are available for women who have undergone FGM in your health board area?
4. Does your health board have a designated consultant and midwife responsible for the care of women who have undergone FGM?
5. How many midwives in your health board area are trained and/or experienced (or do you estimate are trained and/or experienced) in carrying out de-infibulation?

### Response

1. NHS Borders has a local protocol and training is provided every few years.
2. There is no mandatory training for FGM for midwives employed by NHS Borders.
3. There is a designated consultant in Borders but there is no formal clinic as FGM is so rare in this area.
4. As above, we have a designated consultant and a midwife.
5. This information is not held but it is estimated that no midwives in NHS Borders are experienced in de-infibulation.

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 **23-20** 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.