

Freedom of Information request 10-21

Request

I am writing to request disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) 2002 regarding the existing policy of NHS Borders regarding the use of Avastin or compounded bevacizumab in ophthalmic conditions. I would ask that you please provide information as based on the questions below.

1. Does NHS Borders have a formulated policy for the use of Avastin or compounded bevacizumab for the treatment of ophthalmology conditions?

IF YES,

- a. Is this policy in draft format or has it been finalised?
 - b. When is the foreseen rollout of the policy?
 - c. If the policy has been finalised, please provide a copy.
2. If a policy such that is described in Q1 above has been formulated – in draft or final format, will it apply to the treatment of patients for whom an alternative licensed treatment is available or only for patients for whom no treatment is authorised?
 3. If the policy will apply to patients for whom a licensed treatment is available, including treatments recommended by NICE, will patients be given the option to receive a licensed therapy?

Response

1. NHS Borders do not currently use Bevacizumab to treat patients, therefore there is no formulated policy in place for its use in the treatment of ophthalmology conditions.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.

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 **10-21** 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.

