

Environmental Information Regulations Request 123-21

Request

I wish to make a Freedom of Information request to NHS Borders concerning needle use over the past three years: 2018-2020 inclusive.

Public hygiene is important as is maintaining a clean environment for patients within medical establishments within the NHS Borders area. However, needles need to be incinerated at the end of their useful life. The process of incineration has an environmental impact by pushing up greenhouse gas emissions, so ongoing medical research and deploying innovative technology to help save lives is vital for the future: to help patients and the planet, which is fragile.

My questions are as follows:

- 1) How many needles did NHS Borders order for the year 2018?
- 2) How many needles did NHS Borders order for the year 2019?
- 3) How many needles did NHS Borders order for the year 2020?
- 4) How many needles did NHS Borders incinerate for infection control for the year 2018?
- 5) How many needles did NHS Borders incinerate for infection control for the year 2019?
- 6) How many needles did NHS Borders incinerate for infection control for the year 2020?

Response

1. 485,640 needles were ordered by NHS Borders in 2018.
2. 487,188 needles were ordered by NHS Borders in 2019.
3. 359,664 needles were ordered by NHS Borders in 2020.
4. NHS Borders does not record the number of needles disposed of. Needles are disposed of in “sharps boxes” which can also contain a number of other “sharps”, not only needles and therefore under Section 10(4)(a) of the EIR Regulations this data is not held.
5. NHS Borders does not record the number of needles disposed of. Needles are disposed of in “sharps boxes” which can also contain a number of other “sharps”, not only needles and therefore under Section 10(4)(a) of the EIR Regulations this data is not held..
6. NHS Borders does not record the number of needles disposed of. Needles are disposed of in “sharps boxes” which can also contain a number of other “sharps”, not only needles and therefore under Section 10(4)(a) of the EIR Regulations this data is not held..

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 **123-21** 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.