

Freedom of Information request 192-21

Request

In the context of the Freedom of Information [Scotland] Act 2002, I am writing to ask about the arrangements used by your Health Board to produce for the public served by your Board, reactively as well as pro-actively, documents, publications, papers, reports and other material published by the Board in alternative formats [such as but not only 'easy read', large print, braille etc. formats] in line with the Board's legal public sector duty to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity. I have a particular interest in how your Board has used the provisions of Scotland's specific equality duties in relation to procurement to better perform the public sector duty.

The information I request covers the last 3 complete financial years and looks for :

1. Within each of the last 3 financial years, how many publications, papers, reports and other material published by the Board for public consumption were made available in alternative formats, and what proportion of all such publications did this represent in each year ?
2. Within each of the last 3 financial years, how many of the alternative format publications were published pro-actively and how many were published reactively ?
3. Within each of the last 3 financial years, what was the production costs of the material published by the Board in alternative formats ?
4. Within each of the last 3 financial years, on how many occasions were the procurement provisions in the specific equality duties used to commission the production of alternative formats and help the Board to better perform the public sector duty ?
5. Within each of the last 3 years, on how many occasions was the contract for the production of material in alternative formats awarded to the private sector and what was the total value of such contracts in each of the 3 years ?
6. Within each of the last 3 years, on how many occasions was the contract for the production of material in alternative formats awarded to the voluntary/charitable/third sector and what was the total value of such contracts in each of the 3 years ?

Response

1. NHS Borders provides the option on all published material available in alternative formats upon request. We have not received such a request in the last three financial years.
2. NHS Borders have not published either pro-actively or reactively any alternative format publications.
3. NHS Borders have not incurred any production costs within the last three financial years.
4. Not applicable as we were not required to provide any alternative format publications.
5. There have been no contracts awarded to the private sector for the production of material in alternative formats in the past 3 years.

6. There have been no contracts awarded to the voluntary/charitable/third sector for the production of material in alternative formats in the past 3 years.

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 **192-21** 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.