

Freedom of Information request 235-21

Request

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) 2000 Act.

1. The date on which the health board was first notified of potential errors in exclusions from the cervical cancer screening programme.
2. The date on which the health board was first notified of the need to conduct an urgent review of exclusions from the cervical cancer screening programme and a copy of all email correspondence referencing the cervical cancer screening programme in the following 14 days.
3. A copy of all email correspondence between 8 March and 28 March referencing the Cervical Cancer Screening Programme.
4. A copy of all correspondence received from the Scottish Government between March 2020 and June 2020 referencing the cervical cancer screening programme.

Also to clarify, please include copies of all attachments to any relevant emails.

Clarification:

I can confirm the dates I am looking for information on are:

Q3 - 8 March 2021 and 28 March 2021

Q4 - March 2021 and June 2021

Also, if the scope of the request in Q2, 3 and 4 is too wide I am content for this to be limited to correspondence relating to the urgent review of exclusions in the cervical screening programme and for it to be limited to the email correspondence of senior management and staff in the cervical screening programme service.

Response

1. NHS Borders was first notified of potential errors in exclusions from the cervical cancer screening programme on 5 March 2021.
2. NHS Borders was first notified of the need to conduct an urgent review of exclusions from the cervical cancer screening programme on 17 March 2021.

Please see copies of email correspondence and attachments in the following 14 days below:



As NHS Borders is such a small Board, to provide further details could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018. We are therefore withholding all other data under Section 38(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

3. Due to the amount of work required to source and redact all other email correspondence and attachments between 8 March and 28 March referencing the Cervical Cancer Screening Programme, the Board calculates that to provide this information would exceed the amount prescribed for responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Therefore under Section 12(1) Excessive cost of compliance, of the Act, we are not obliged to provide you with the information.
4. There was no correspondence from the Scottish Government received by NHS Borders between March 2021 and June 2021 referencing the cervical cancer screening programme.

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 **235-21** 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.