

Freedom of Information request 151-22

Request

1. A copy of any agreement with your recognised trade unions on trade union facilities time. In the absence of a specific agreement, a copy of a recognition or other agreement that references facilities time.
2. With reference to the amount of facility time reported under Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 for the year 2020-21. If you didn't make a return for that year please provide a link to your publication. Where there any particular factors (negotiations, projects etc.) that influenced the amount of facility time that year?
3. List up to three ways how you believe union facility time has benefitted the organisation.
4. List any issues or challenges that have arisen as a result of facility time for your organisation. For example, what works well, or doesn't work well and any solutions you have applied.
5. List any disputes with your recognised trade unions or employment tribunal claims over facility time in the last five years not covered above.
6. Any specific facilities time agreed for union representatives engaged in national bargaining/partnership forums and similar, or any funding contribution for this purpose.
7. Any other views on facility time arrangements in your organisation not covered by the above.

Response

1. Please see below NHS Borders Facilities Arrangements for Trade Unions and Professional Organisations Policy:



Facilities
Arrangements.pdf

2. Please see NHS Borders Facilities Time Report 2020-21 below:



202021 Facility Time
Reporting.pdf

3. This request is invalid. The Freedom of information (Scotland) Act 2002, provides a right of access to the information we hold. It does not require the public authority to express opinions, make suppositions or draw conclusions. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
4. There have been no issues or challenges as a result of facility time within NHS Borders.
5. There have been no disputes with any Trade Unions or Employment Tribunal Claims over facility time in the last five years.

6. No facilities time was used for engagement with National Bargaining / Partnership Forums.

7. 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 **151-22** 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.