

Freedom of Information request 271-22

Request

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Scotland Act.

1. What 'improved accessible information for women who have a miscarriage is available and signposted across' your health board as per the Women's Health Plan published in 2021.
2. What percentage of eligible women between January 1st 2022 and June 15th 2022 have attended Cervical Screening appointments from a) the most deprived postcodes in your health board and b) the least deprived postcodes in your health board.
3. What percentage of eligible women between January 1st 2019 and June 15th 2019 attended Cervical Screening appointments from a) the most deprived postcodes in your health board and b) the least deprived postcodes in your health board.
4. How much time and resource has your health board committed to engaging with the Equally Safe at Work employer accreditation programme.
5. As per the Women's Health Plan since August 2021, how many women are a) eligible for and b) have been able to make use of any extension of self-sampling in the cervical screening programme.

Response

1. Within NHS Borders all women who have had a miscarriage are signposted to the "Held in our Hearts" charity. This is either via the Antenatal Early Pregnancy midwives on diagnosis or the community or hospital midwife; whichever midwife was most appropriately placed at the time of the miscarriage. We also have a designated bereavement team within the hospital we can signpost to.
2. This data is not held by NHS Borders, it may be available from Public Health Scotland, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.
3. This data is not held by NHS Borders, it may be available from Public Health Scotland, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.
4. NHS Borders have not participated in the Equally Safe at Work employer accreditation programme therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 no data is held.
5. Self-sampling for cervical screening has not been introduced into the Scottish Cervical Screening programme yet. A national Self-Sampling Short Life Working Group has been established, but the project cannot progress until there isn't a clinically validated test which can be used for self-sampling in the UK.

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 **271-22** 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.