

Freedom of Information request 422-22

Request

1. What the health board's current position is on funding homeopathic medicine.
2. Was any discussion or review carried out on funding homeopathic medication by the health board following NHS England's advice in 2017 to primary care settings to not routinely prescribe homeopathic medication due to evidence of low clinical effectiveness.
3. Any papers, minutes, briefings and/or notes of, or relating to, decisions taken by the health board on homeopathic medication since 2017.
4. If the health board does fund homeopathic medication please detail how this is dispensed.
5. For the 2021/22 period (or if data is not available for 21/22 for the most recent financial year data you do have available) how much was spent by the health board on homeopathic medication.

Response

1. NHS Borders do not fund homeopathic medicine.
2. Discussions took place at NHS Borders on the effectiveness of homeopathic medication prior to 2017.
3. No documentation is held as this decision was taken prior to 2017.
4. Not applicable.
5. NHS Borders incurred no spend on homeopathic medication in 2021/22.

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 **422-22** 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.

