

Freedom of Information request 715-22

Request

It has been widely reported, and stated by the Health Secretary Humza Yousaf himself, that there are contingency plans in place for NHS Boards should strike action by RCN members take place and that the Scottish Government have engaged with health boards on them.

Please provide the following information:

1. All copies of documented contingency plans for the health board over a potential strike period.
2. Each date the Health Secretary and/or Scottish Government engaged with the health board specifically on contingency plans.

Response

1. Management within NHS Borders have identified which services are essential to protect the health & wellbeing of the people of the Scottish Borders, and if & when any industrial action is notified, will be ready to secure safe staffing levels for these services. We would follow our Business Continuity Planning processes if normal functions, are subject to disruption.

Please find attached below our Business Continuity Planning template and Resilience Policy which would be implemented by those services affected:



Business Continuity
Plan Template.pdf



NHS Borders
Resilience Policy.pdf

2. NHS Borders received an email from NHS Scotland providing a letter from Scottish Government dated 23 September 2022 regarding potential industrial action. There was also further email correspondence from Scottish Government on 22 November 2022 regarding contingency plans for strike action.

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 **715-22** 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.