

## Freedom of Information request 75-23

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### Request

1. Any correspondence (including emails, letters, phone calls, handwritten notes, WhatsApp messages or any other documents) between board members at this health board regarding NHS privatisation, a 'two tier system' or any other discussions concerning charging patients for services that are currently free at the point of use. Information should include but not be limited to a detailed timeline (with dates) of any contact between board members about the above. Please provide this information between the dates of 26 July 2022 and 26 January 2023 inclusive.
2. Any correspondence (including emails, letters, phone calls, handwritten notes, WhatsApp messages or any other documents) between NHS Chief Executives and/or Scottish Government ministers and/or special advisers and/or Scottish Government Senior officials regarding NHS privatisation, a 'two tier system' or any other discussions concerning charging patients for services that are currently free at the point of use. The following link may be useful in ascertaining what Scottish Government officials should be included [NHS Chief Executives minutes: May 2022 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/minutes/pages/2022-05-04-nhs-chief-executives.aspx)

### Response

1. NHS Borders do not hold any correspondence (including emails, letters, phone calls, handwritten notes, WhatsApp messages or any other documents) between Board Members regarding NHS privatisation, a 'two tier system' or any other discussions concerning charging patients for services that are currently free at the point of use – for the period 26 July 2022 and 26 January 2023.
2. NHS Borders do not hold any correspondence between NHS Chief Executives and/or Scottish Government ministers and/or special advisers and/or Scottish Government Senior officials regarding NHS privatisation, a 'two tier system' or any other discussions concerning charging patients for services that are currently free at the point of use.

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](mailto: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 **75-23** 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.