

Freedom of Information request 294-23

Request

1. Please confirm the policies/provisions in place in NHS Borders to ensure staff (in particular junior doctors) have access to nutritious food, out-of-hours catering and rest spaces.
2. The Scottish Government have stated that in March 2023 it confirmed funding to Health Boards for the purchase of small hot food appliances for all hospital Doctors in Training. Please confirm a) how much money has been paid to NHS Borders or is due to be paid to the board for this purpose b) what plans the board have in place of the use of this funding. i.e.. What specific equipment will be purchased and where will this be available within the health board?
3. The Scottish Government have also stated that in in 2021, it made £12 million available to the NHS workforce, including funding for practical support such as access to hot food and drinks. Please confirm a) the share of this funding received by NHS Borders b) how this funding has been used within NHS Borders and what practical support has been put in place since 2021 using such funding.

Response

1. All NHS Borders staff have 24 hr access to catering, and rest areas, Junior Doctors have a dedicated rest area which also has out of hours catering.
2. NHS Borders received £180 to purchase hot food appliances for trainees. The plan is to purchase 5 x Breville VST025 Café-Style sandwich presses to be placed in appropriate locations.
3. NHS Borders received an allocation of £40,343 in 2021/22 towards Workforce Wellbeing. This was used to provide tea, coffee, water and packed lunches for staff working in hospitals.

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 **294-23** 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.