

Freedom of Information request 376-23

Request

I would like copies of all records, letters, emails, meeting minutes, risk assessments etc relating to NHS Borders' acceptance of this clinically illiterate guidance –

'Scottish Government guidance on extended use of face masks and face coverings in hospitals, primary care and wider community healthcare will be withdrawn on 16 May 2023.
Masks will no longer be required to be worn routinely by staff, patients or visitors

Response

All Health Boards are expected to implement national guidance as determined by the Scottish Government. As such, this has not been subject to any local approval process, therefore, there are no recorded communications or risk assessments, although the documents received from the Scottish Government were circulated to members of NHS Borders PPE Committee for noting.

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 **376-23** 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.