

Freedom of Information request 409-23

Request

I would appreciate information on Postmortems in the Borders General Hospital Melrose please. Is this service still occurring, or has this ceased and all postmortems being taken to Edinburgh? If ceases when and any reasons given by NHS Borders.

This service is vital to the borders and causing some concerns to families who have to wait longer period of time to prepare their funeral.

Response

NHS Borders stopped carrying out Postmortems on site in 2013, when the service was moved to NHS Lothian (Edinburgh). Prior to this change, NHS Lothian Pathologists came to the Borders General Hospital (BGH) to carry out Postmortems. BGH does not have the facilities or staff to carry out these procedures. The information as to why this service ceased is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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 **409-23** 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.