

## Freedom of Information request 560-23

---

### Request

1. Does your health board have a policy for distributing sanitary products to staff and/ or patients free of charge?
2. Does this policy apply to all hospitals in your health board
3. Any details of this policy
4. To your knowledge, is this policy being followed by all hospitals?

### Response

1. Following the passing of the Period Products Bill, Scottish Government requested that all NHS Boards commence implementation of Period Product Dispensers across all relevant areas. No policy is in place, however, in November 2021 NHS Borders created a short-life-working-group to discuss and manage the implementation of dispensers & recurring supply of consumables (sanitary products) 'free-of-charge' within NHS Borders.
2. Phase 1 (April 2022) – roll out of dispensers in female & gender neutral toilets (Public & Staff) within the Borders General Hospital – COMPLETE.

Phase 2 (July 2023) – roll out of dispensers in female & gender neutral toilets (Public & Staff) within 4 x Community Hospitals (Knoll, Kelso, Hawick, Haylodge) – IN PROGRESS (Dispensers ordered & implementation scheduled).

Phase 3 (Autumn 2023) – roll out of dispensers in female & gender neutral toilets (Public & Staff) within Health Centres & Mental Health Services – IN PROGRESS (Audit underway to identify numbers / size of dispensers required).

3. See the response to Question 2 above.
4. The roll out of Period Product dispensers is taking place within all NHS Borders Hospitals, Health Centres & other In-patient (Mental Health) areas.

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 **560-23** 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.