

13 September 2023

Freedom of Information request 631-23

Request

This is a request for information regarding the ability of the health board to obtain ASM (anti-seizure medication) levels in women with epilepsy in accordance with the National Maternity Network Standards of Care for Women with Epilepsy of Childbearing Age: standards 1.7 and 2.8.

1. Does NHS Borders currently have the ability to obtain trough levels of ASMs in women with epilepsy during and prior to the perinatal period?
2. If the answer to 1. is no, will NHS Borders outsource this ability from other health boards in the specific situations where the Standards of Care call for it?

Response

1. The laboratory at NHS Borders does not analyse ASM's.
2. NHS Borders send ASM tests to NHS Lothian (or further afield if necessary) for analysis.

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 **631-23** 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.