

**Chief Executive's Office**  
**Freedom of Information**

Ground Floor North  
Mountainhall Treatment Centre  
Bankend Road  
Dumfries  
DG1 4AP  
☎ [REDACTED]  
✉ dg.feedback@nhs.net



Ref.: [REDACTED]  
Date: 1 March 2019

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) 2002**

Thank you for your email, dated 15 February, where you requested information through the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please find below responses to the questions you raised.

John Finnie MSP has tabled legislation to remove the defence of reasonable chastisement from law, which currently allows parents to administer minor physical punishment, such as smacking. In the first five years of introducing a ban in New Zealand, which has a similar legal system, police investigated nearly 600 allegations.

Please can you provide me with a copy of, or details of the assessment that your organisation has carried out on these plans, in particular I am keen to see how this will impact the following:

- a) The need for additional staff. **NONE**
- b) The need for additional financial resources. **NONE**
- c) How current guidance to members/staff will need to change especially those relating to reporting on parents? **Reporting standards for Child Protection concerns are unlikely to change.**
- d) Should your organisation receive a complaint about a member/staff member what the procedures would be for dealing with this and what support for the member/staff member would be available if they are suspended during the investigation?

**Staff would be managed in the same way as any other criminal investigation as per NHS Disciplinary Policy.**

Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Dumfries and Galloway has dealt with your request, you have a right to request a review of our actions and decisions in relation to your request, and you have a right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

A request for review must be made within forty working days from 01 March 2019 and should, in the first instance, be in writing to [REDACTED], [REDACTED], NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Ground Floor North, Mountainhall Treatment Centre, Bankend Road, Dumfries DG1 4AP or by e-mail to dg.feedback@nhs.net You must provide your name, an address for correspondence, details of your original request and why you want a review.

If our decision is unchanged following review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you have the right to make a formal appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. Requests for appeal should be made in writing to the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, telephone [REDACTED], fax 01334 464611 or email: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Chair: Nick Morris  
Chief Executive: Jeff Ace

Freedom of Information Officer