

Date 14 March 2019

Your Ref

Our Ref FOI [REDACTED]

Enquiries to

Extension

Direct Line

[REDACTED]  
By Email

Dear [REDACTED]

**Request for Information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**

We write in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act.

*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.*

**Response:** NHS Forth Valley would consider the potential need for additional staff if the Bill becomes law.

*b) The need for additional financial resources.*

**Response:** NHS Forth Valley would consider the potential need for additional financial resources if the Bill becomes law.

*c) How current guidance to members/staff will need to change especially those relating to reporting on parents?*

**Response:** NHS Forth Valley would consider the potential need for changes to current Guidance if the Bill becomes law.

*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?*

**Response:** NHS Forth Valley would support a staff member via current existing Human Resources Policies and Procedures.

Chairman: Alex Linkston CBE  
Chief Executive: Cathie Cowan

Forth Valley NHS Board is the common name for Forth Valley Health Board  
Registered Office: Carseview House, Castle Business Park, Stirling, FK9 4SW  
[www.nhsforthvalley.com](http://www.nhsforthvalley.com) Facebook.com/nhsforthvalley @nhsforthvalley

We trust this is to your satisfaction. However, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 if you are dissatisfied with our response you are entitled to request a review. A request for review must be made in writing to Miss Deirdre Coyle, Head of Information Governance, NHS Forth Valley, CSD, Colquhoun Street, Stirling, FK7 7PX or [fv-uhb.freedomofinformation@nhs.net](mailto:fv-uhb.freedomofinformation@nhs.net), no later than forty working days from receipt of the response. Your request must be in permanent form and should state:

- That you are asking for a review of this decision and
- Why you are unhappy with the response you have received.

If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to ask for advice, assistance or a formal appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS or [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

Please feel free to contact us should you require any further advice or assistance.

Yours sincerely

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