

4 December 2025

Freedom of Information request 612-2526

Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 regarding NHS Borders' response to recent communications about Paediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infections (PANDAS).

In May 2025, the PANS PANDAS Steering Group (PPSG) wrote to the chief executive of all NHS boards in Scotland to inform them of the ongoing work in the development of clinical guidelines for PANS and PANDAS. A link to this, and other referenced communication and statements can be found at the bottom of this email

Referenced in that letter, is a letter written by Neil Gray MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to Wendy Chamberlain MP, outlining the support available in Scotland for those affected, as well as confirmation that the Department for Health and Social Care in England officially recognises that the PPSG 2023 statement supersedes the 2021 BPNA Consensus Statement.

A request was made to the Cabinet Secretary to confirm if this was also the status in Scotland, but we were informed that we would need to make that request to each individual NHS board in Scotland.

With that in mind, could you please provide responses to the following:

1. Actions Taken in Response to the PPSG Letter

What steps has NHS Borders taken in response to the requests outlined in the PPSG letter, specifically:

- Distribution of information about PANS and PANDAS to GP practices.
- Circulation of this information to paediatric units.

2. Recognition of Updated Guidance

Does NHS Borders recognise that the 2023 PANS PANDAS Steering Group Statement supersedes the 2021 BPNA Consensus Statement?

3. Clinical pathways and referral options.

The Cabinet Secretary stated that there are multidisciplinary services for PANS and PANDAS currently available in Glasgow and Edinburgh. In the absence of such teams in NHS Borders, what steps are taken when a patient presents with symptoms which may be indicative of PANS or PANDAS?

PANS PANDAS Steering Group letter to NHS Board Chief Executives

<https://theppsg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/PANS-PANDAS-Steering-Group-Letter-to-Scottish-NHS-Trusts-May-2025.pdf>

Neil Gray MSP letter to Wendy Chamberlain MP

<https://panspandasuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/PANS-and-PANDAS-Wendy-Chamberlain-Dec-2024.pdf>

2023 PANS PANDAS Steering Group Statement

https://panspandasuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPWG-Statement.pdf?_gl=1*ppey3y*_ga*MTgyMzc5MTY3LjE3NjlxNzcxNDg.*_ga_0J49JKSEBQ*cze3NjlxNzcxNDgkzbEkZzEkdDE3NjlxNzcyMDEkajckbDAkaDA

2024 PANS PANDAS Steering Group Update

https://panspandasuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/PPSG-Update-August-2024-v2.pdf?_gl=1*1eoktzy*_ga*MTgyMzc5MTY3LjE3NjlxNzcxNDg.*_ga_0J49JKSEBQ*_czE3NjlxODU2ODAKbzIkZzAkDDE3NjlxODU2ODAKajYwJGwwJGgw

BPNA page on PANS/PANDAS

<https://bpna.org.uk/?page=pans-pandas>

Response

1. The PANS/PANDAS information was circulated to GPs by NHS Borders as part of the GP Weekly Update on 3 July 2025. The document was also passed to the Paediatric team.
2. The NHS Borders Paediatric team recognises that the 2023 PANS PANDAS Steering Group Statement supersedes the 2021 BPNA Consensus Statement. This information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 for GP's.
3. Within the NHS Borders Paediatrics Service, these presentations follow the same pathway for any referral into Paediatrics, there is no dedicated service within NHS Borders for Paediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infections (PANDAS) patients. The children are triaged and assessed by the medical team. Reviews, onward referrals or treatment options may involve a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) where available and deemed clinically appropriate. Advice may be sought from NHS Lothian specialists for individual patients which may involve a review in outreach clinics delivered by NHS Lothian specialists, or onward referral to NHS Lothian.

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, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BD 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 **612-2526** 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.