Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

I refer to your e-mail dated 25th February 2011, requesting:

- “…Have you been working with any GPs, or private companies, to develop prescribing guidelines for GPs?
- Have you made any estimates of how much your organisation would like to save from the prescribing budget in 2011/12?
- Will you be placing restrictions on the prescribing of specific drugs or classes of drugs by GPs in 2011/12? If so please give details.
- Will you launch any new primary care initiatives to help GPs reduce their spend on prescribed drugs in 2011/12? If so please give details. “

I can now respond as follows:

Have you been working with any GPs, or private companies, to develop prescribing guidelines for GPs?
NHS Grampian works with GPs, consultants and other healthcare professionals to develop prescribing guidelines. This is part of routine practice to ensure cost effective prescribing and safe use of medicines. NHS Grampian guidelines can be accessed on the NHS Grampian Medicines Management website: [link]

NHS Grampian has not worked with private companies other than GPs on developing prescribing guidelines.

Have you made any estimates of how much your organisation would like to save from the prescribing budget in 2011/12?
NHS Grampian is still in the process of finalising the Medicines Management work plan for 2011/12 and consequently financial figures are not yet available; s17 of the Act refers – information not held.
Will you be placing restrictions on the prescribing of specific drugs or classes of drugs by GPs in 2011/12? If so please give details.
NHS Grampian recommends that GPs follow the Grampian Joint Formulary (GJF) with regard to prescribing choices. In developing the GJF, NHS Grampian follows the recommendations of the Scottish Medicines Consortium and local specialist and GP advice to ensure safe and cost effective prescribing choices can be made. Within the GJF some drugs or classes of drugs may be recommended for specific circumstances. The GJF can be accessed on the NHS Grampian Medicines Management website: http://www.nhsgrampian.org/nhsgrampian/GMM_home_new.jsp?pContentID=4244&p_app_lic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&

Will you launch any new primary care initiatives to help GPs reduce their spend on prescribed drugs in 2011/12? If so please give details.
NHS Grampian is still in the process of finalising the Medicines Management work plan for 2011/12 and consequently exact details of initiatives are not yet agreed with all parties; s17 of the Act refers – Information not held. NHS Grampian will be continuing with projects started in 2010 and will also be looking to refresh/renew initiatives/projects which have been looked at in previous years. Effective procurement strategies will also be addressed.

Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Grampian 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 40 working days and should, in the first instance, be in writing to: Directorate of Corporate Communications, Ashgrove House, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, AB25 2ZN or by email to grampian@nhs.net

Requests for appeal should be made in writing to: Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS
Telephone: 01334 464610, Fax: 01334 464611
e-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Yours sincerely

Chris Morrice
Information Governance Manager
NHS Grampian