Dear [Name]

**Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**

I refer to your e-mail dated 14th May 2014, requesting:

*“Please could you provide the following under freedom of information legislation:*

*The number of times dementia patients have been 'boarded' in hospitals across the NHS board with:*

a/ the total for each of the financial years: 2010/11; 2011/12; 2012/13 and 2013/14.

and

b/ broken down for each year by the number of times dementia patients have been boarded with: no ward moves; one ward move; two ward moves and more than two ward moves.”

I can now respond as follows:

*The number of times dementia patients have been 'boarded' in hospitals across the NHS board with:

the total for each of the financial years: 2010/11; 2011/12; 2012/13 and 2013/14.

and

broken down for each year by the number of times dementia patients have been boarded with: no ward moves; one ward move; two ward moves and more than two ward moves.

In response to both of the above questions, this information is not held in an easily retrievable format. To provide an answer NHS Grampian would have to go through every patient’s medical notes for each of the years requested to determine how many patients were 'boarded' and then how many of these individuals were being treated for dementia. To provide this information would exceed the limit prescribed by the Act; s12 of the Act refers – Excessive cost of compliance.

Please note if a patient is diagnosed with dementia they will not be ‘boarded’. The system in place is implemented by operational support, as part of their assessment. They consider the age and the Abbreviated Mental Test (10AMT) score of the person when
considering movement of the patient within the hospital and away from their parent ward. This means that no-one should be moved from the Care of the Elderly specialty who has an AMT score of less than 8. Operational support endeavour to do this in other clinical specialties also. As part of flow management no-one from the Care of the Elderly Department will leave their parent ward prior to discharge and therefore the discharge lounge is not utilised.

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