

Lothian NHS Board

Waverley Gate
2-4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh
EH1 3EG

Telephone: 0131 536 9000
www.nhsllothian.scot.nhs.uk
www.nhsllothian.scot.nhs.uk



Date: 13/05/2024
Your Ref:
Our Ref: 8589

Enquiries to : Richard Mutch
Extension: 35687
Direct Line: 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DEATH OF CHILD

I write in response to your request for information in relation to death of child patient within NHS Lothian.

Question:

- All processes that the health board has in place to specifically record the death of child patients.

Answer:

All deaths are primarily recorded by National Records Scotland (NRS)

As of October 2021, all Health Boards in Scotland were required to implement the National Child death Review process (CDR). The Scottish Government established this process with the aim of reducing child deaths, by ensuring the death of every child and young person is reviewed, and including a way to undertake a review of child deaths which would not been the subject of any other review previously.

Further information may be found within Scottish Government communication DL (2020) 25 3 September 2020 (attached). “National Hub for Reviewing and Learning from the deaths of children and young peoples - Implementation”.

To facilitate the implementation of this process, all deaths of children under the care of NHS Lothian, whether in hospital or in the community are recorded on our risk management information system (Datix).

In addition, a weekly report is received from National Records Scotland (NRS), and a weekly search is also carried out on our Patient Administration System (TRAK), with all identified deaths of children being added to our Risk Management information system (Datix), This would include any child resident in Lothian, even if the death occurred elsewhere. e.g. in another health board area, or another country.

Question:

- The number of child patient deaths the board has been notified of broken down by type of notification process (the list of which you will have provided in response to request 1). I am



Headquarters
Waverley Gate
2-4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh EH1 3EG

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Calum Campbell

Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

looking for this figure to be broken down by year in the last five calendar years [2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024* so far] OR whenever the board began to record it.

Answer:

In NHS Lothian, information was recorded prior to October 2021 in preparation for the implementation of the CDR process.

There were 280 child deaths recorded on NHS Lothian’s Risk Management Information System from 01/01/2019 to 25/03/2024 (Date of FOI).

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	40	43	53	71	58	15
The data includes adverse events logged under the <u>Category Neonatal</u> and <u>Subcategory Neonatal deaths</u> – A neonatal death is up to 28 days after birth, regardless of gestation at birth (If baby is very premature, the service may choose to still carry out a Perinatal Mortality Review Tool (PMRT)).						

Question:

- The number of child patient deaths the board has gone on to investigate as a result of being notified through one of the processes. I am looking for this figure to be broken down in the last five calendar years. [2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2022 and 2024*so far] OR whenever the board began to record it.

Answer:

The were 142 deaths reported that NHS Lothian has undertaken a review in addition to a Child death review from 01/01/2019 to 25/03/2024 (Date of FOI). Of the 142 adverse events reviewed there are currently 35 still currently being reviewed.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	22	19	23	36	33	9

Please note that the above figures include the following number of neonatal deaths, as defined in the previous question, which received a review using the Perinatal Mortality Review Tool (PMRT).

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information

Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive
Enc.