

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PREGNANCY AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to pregnant women who have disclosed domestic abuse in NHS Lothian.

Question:

For the past five years, please give a breakdown by year of;

1. The number of pregnant women who have disclosed that they are a victim of domestic abuse/flagged as victims of domestic abuse in your system (please also include the total number of pregnant patients each year for comparison)
2. Number of women who disclosed DA who experienced infection, premature birth, miscarriage, injury or death [risks listed as per the video on this NHS page <https://www.nhs.uk/pregnancy/support/domestic-abuse-in-pregnancy/>]
3. For how many women it has not been possible to undertake *in private* (aka whilst she is alone) the routine initial enquiry to decipher whether she is a victim.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. This is based on women who have given birth in the past five years. The enquiry about whether the woman has experienced domestic abuse may be asked at any time during pregnancy but is usually at the first appointment with the midwife.

Information about the women who disclosed that they were victims of domestic abuse who then had a miscarriage, injury or infection is not held, as this information is not collected centrally. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Where the enquiry was not undertaken, this may be due to any of the following reasons: no interpreter present, no private space, not appropriate due to other clinical priority, not

trained in asking the question, partner or others present. It is not possible to specify the number specifically not asked because someone else was present as this information is not collected centrally. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Pregnant women who have disclosed domestic abuse, NHS Lothian				
Year	Number of women giving birth	Routine enquiry not undertaken	Number disclosing abuse	Number of premature births <37 weeks
2019	8,417	886	384	45
2020	8,262	160	489	50
2021	8,598	54	442	38
2022	8,137	45	458	40
2023	7,894	31	455	41

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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive