

Date 13/05/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9608

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - NAS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

Question:

- Can you please send me information from the last six calendar years, babies born harmed by substances, the names of the syndromes involved, the substances involved, whether any deaths sadly occurring within a year of birth.

Answer:

Number of SCRH patients with Diagnosis of "Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome" at admission/discharge by year.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number Babies	5<	8	5<	5<	5<	8
There were no deaths recorded.						

Regarding the "various syndromes" is not possible to answer. Whilst there are potential teratogenic effects of most drugs, the causation of any underlying syndrome (eg Septo-optic-dysplasia) is so multifactorial that we cannot attribute causation to any maternal substance use. The most common and well recognised teratogenic medications are prescribed (Valproate, Carbamazepine, Lithium etc) and therefore outwith the scope of this request (also not data that are extracted easily).

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive