

Date 29/04/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9928

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – BIRTHS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to births within NHS Lothian during 2024.

Question:

a. How many babies were born in your health board area?

Answer:

There were 8,274 (inc stillbirths and NNU deaths) births.

Question:

b. How many were born by spontaneous vaginal birth/assisted vaginal birth/planned c-section/unplanned c-sections?

Answer:

Spontaneous vaginal birth	3,421
Assisted vaginal birth	1,138
Planned c-section	1,361
Unplanned c-sections	2,205
Breech (which was not asked for*)	24
Total deliveries	8,149

Question:

c. How many pregnancies were induced?

Answer:

There were 2,290 induced pregnancies (includes Intrauterine deaths and Stillbirths).

Question:

d. Of the inductions, how many were for medical reasons/ personal choice/other reason?

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*

Answer:

Social – 16	16
Other - 793	793
Medical - 1481	1,481

Question:

e. At how many weeks gestation were the inductions carried out?

Answer:

33	5<
34	5<
35	5<
36	60
37	185
38	347
39	599
40	544
41	497
42	25
We have removed IUD's and Stillbirths from this list	

Question:

f. How many births were in CMUs / in hospital/ at home?

Answer:

Consultant Unit	7,313
Homebirth	110
Midwife Unit	668
BBA	41
Not booked / not Known	17

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the tables 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).

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](http://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