

Date: 16/05/2025
Our Ref: 9945
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – OBSTETRIC TRIAGE SYSTEM

I write in response to your request for information in relation to the obstetrics triage system used in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Please can you tell me if all of the maternity units or wards your board operates use the Birmingham Symptom-specific Obstetric Triage System (BSOTS). If a unit/ward does not operate BSOTS, please can you state its name.

Answer:

The BSOTS is used for obstetrics triage at the maternity unit at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. It is not used at the maternity unit at St John's Hospital.

Question:

2. What percentage of the midwives employed by your board have had BSOTS training?

Answer:

Of the 27 midwives employed at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh who have triage as part of their role, 96.3% are trained on BSOTS. The remaining midwife joined the triage team at the end of April 2025 and will attend the next BSOTS course on 20 June 2025.

Question:

3. What percentage of the staff on your board's Midwifery Staff Bank have had BSOTS training?

Answer:

27.6% of all midwives on NHS Lothian's Staff Bank have had BSOTS training. Only those midwives working in triage require this training for their role. Bank shifts in obstetrics triage will not be offered to bank staff who have not received the appropriate training.

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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