

Date: 16/06/2025
Our Ref: 10005
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – OBSTETRICS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to obstetrics in NHS Lothian.

The completed survey document is attached as requested.

I have not released numbers of 5 or fewer in the table, as this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of 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 <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

Survey of perineal tears and obstetric practice in the UK

We would appreciate if you would kindly complete this short but important survey. This information would help us to establish accurate prevalence data and establish the current national practice regarding follow-up of third- and fourth-degree tears between 31st December 2023- 1st January 2024 and correlate data with the maternity dashboard.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Adanna Okeahialam, MD MRCOG, Obstetrics & Gynaecology Specialty Registrar

Abdul Sultan MD FRCOG, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist

Ranee Thakar MD MRCOG, Consultant Obstetrician and Urogynaecologist

Name of Hospital / Unit	NHS Lothian maternity units at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and St John's Hospital Livingston.			
Address	51 Little France Crescent, Old Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4SA St John's Hospital, Howden Road West, Howden, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6PP			
	Total	Primiparous	Multiparous	Don't Know
All Births	9,551	4,885	4,666	
Vaginal deliveries	5,300	2,471	2,829	
Forceps deliveries	1,047	875	172	
Ventouse deliveries	272	200	72	
Failed ventouse → Forceps deliveries	0	0	0	
Caesarean Section	4,251	2,414	1,837	
Elective caesarean section	1,625	573	1,052	
Emergency caesarean section	2,626	1,841	785	
Second degree tears	1,644	669	975	
Sutured second degree tears	Information not collected centrally, only available in free text in notes			
Episiotomies	1,840	1,451	389	
Third degree tears	280	179	101	
3a	63	30	33	
3b	44	31	13	
3c	8	8	0	
Fourth degree tears	12	10	≤5	
Rectal buttonhole tear	Information not collected centrally, only available in free text in notes			

Type of Hospital/Unit? (please X or ✓)	Free-standing Midwifery Unit	Alongside Midwifery Unit	Obstetrician Led Labour Ward	State Other:
How are third- and fourth-degree tears classified for data collection? (please X or ✓)				
3 rd degree tears	3 rd & 4 th degree tears separately	Grade 3a, 3b, 3c, 4 th degree	Don't know	
Do you have a designated perineal clinic	Yes	No		
If yes, is it (please X or ✓)	Midwifery led	Obstetrician led	State Other:	
Please kindly provide names of perineal clinic leads and designation Name: Contact Address Email:	Bridget Smyth, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, bridget.smyth@nhs.scot			
If No, how are women with 3 rd & 4 th degree tears followed up? (please X or ✓)				
Community midwives	GP	Hospital antenatal clinic	Others – Please state	
Do you have a designated women's health physiotherapist? (please X or ✓)				
If yes, how many?	Yes			
If yes, when do they follow up women with 3 rd & 4 th degree tears				
Antenatal	Postnatal	Ward prior to discharge	Other- Please state	

What maternity data system is used in your unit? (please X or ✓)				
Epic	Terranova	Euro king	Cerner	Other: TRAK
Any further comments:				
Kindly provide the following details in case we need clarification.				
Your name:	Allyn Dick			
Contact details:	Allyn.dick@nhs.scot			
Email address:				