

Date: 01/04/2025  
Our Ref: 9765  
Enquiries to [loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MATERNITY RELATED DEATHS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to maternity related deaths in NHS Lothian.

### Question:

1. Can I have copies of all information/reports held by the health board on maternity related deaths listed indicating whether the deceased was a mother or child. Can I have these figures presented yearly, from 2019/2024 inclusive. Can I also have the figures broken down by hospital.

### Answer:

The tables below details incidents recorded under the categories of 'maternal death', 'neonatal death' and 'stillbirth'.

I have not released numbers of 5 or fewer in the tables, 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.

Maternity related deaths by incident type, NHS Lothian			
Year	Maternal death	Neonatal death	Stillbirth
2019	≤5	16	28
2020	≤5	15	32
2021	≤5	29	28
2022	0	25	25
2023	≤5	22	23
2024	≤5	22	29

Maternity related deaths by site, NHS Lothian		
Year	Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	St John's Hospital
2019	38	8
2020	35	13
2021	52	≤5

Maternity related deaths by site, NHS Lothian		
Year	Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	St John's Hospital
2022	43	7
2023	42	≤5
2024	43	9

We are not able to release the incident reports, as these contain information about specific cases which 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.nhslotthian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

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