

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PREVENTABLE CHILD DEATHS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to preventable child deaths in NHS Lothian.

### Question:

How many preventable deaths were there in children aged under 16 years old in 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26. Please break this down year-on-year, by condition/cause of death and by sex.

### Answer:

'Preventable deaths' is not a term used or measured. Instead, investigations would look at whether there were risk factors which could have been modified, which may or may not have prevented the death.

We therefore do not have any information with which to answer your request.

I am sorry I cannot help 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