

Date: 20/07/2026  
Our Ref: 11618  
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MATERNITY AND NEONATAL ADVERSE EVENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to adverse events in NHS Lothian's Maternity and Neonatal services.

### Question:

I am writing to request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 that the health board disclose all information it holds detailing how many serious adverse events were recorded across the health boards maternity and neonatal services between 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26.

The disclosure should include, but not be limited to, a breakdown of the number of serious adverse events that were recorded at individual hospitals across the health board's area. The disclosure should also summarise the category and/or nature of the serious adverse incident, such as staff shortages, medicines administered in error, or treatment delays.

### Answer:

The table below details the total number of significant adverse events recorded for NHS Lothian's Maternity and Neonatal Services in each year, by site:

| Significant Adverse Events, Maternity and Neonatal, NHS Lothian |           |           |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Site                                                            | 2023/24   | 2024/25   | 2025/26   |
| Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh                                    | 64        | 65        | 64        |
| St John's Hospital                                              | 9         | 16        | 11        |
| <b>Total</b>                                                    | <b>73</b> | <b>81</b> | <b>75</b> |

The table below breaks down these adverse events by sub category. 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.

| Significant Adverse Events, Maternity and Neonatal, NHS Lothian |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Sub category                                                    | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 |
| Admission to adult ITU                                          | 0       | 0       | ≤5      |

| Significant Adverse Events, Maternity and Neonatal, NHS Lothian                               |           |           |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sub category                                                                                  | 2023/24   | 2024/25   | 2025/26   |
| Birth injury                                                                                  | ≤5        | ≤5        | ≤5        |
| Child Death                                                                                   | 0         | ≤5        | ≤5        |
| Delay in diagnosis                                                                            | 0         | 0         | ≤5        |
| HIE Grade 2&3 in infants ≥34 weeks                                                            | 10        | ≤5        | 6         |
| Hypoglycaemia <1mmol/l or symptomatic hypoglycaemia <2mmol/l                                  | ≤5        | 0         | 0         |
| Hysterectomy                                                                                  | 6         | 6         | ≤5        |
| Maternal Death                                                                                | ≤5        | ≤5        | 0         |
| Neonatal death                                                                                | 26        | 26        | 24        |
| PPH ≥2500                                                                                     | 0         | 0         | ≤5        |
| Stillbirth - Antepartum                                                                       | 22        | 30        | 23        |
| Stillbirth - Intrapartum                                                                      | ≤5        | ≤5        | ≤5        |
| Unplanned term admission to the NNU requiring any ventilatory support or volume resuscitation | 0         | 0         | ≤5        |
| Fall, slip or trip from standing                                                              | ≤5        | 0         | 0         |
| Fall from bed/trolley                                                                         | 0         | ≤5        | 0         |
| Dirty - Known High Risk Patient                                                               | ≤5        | 0         | 0         |
| Fall from chair                                                                               | 0         | 0         | ≤5        |
| Fall, slip or trip on stairs                                                                  | 0         | ≤5        | 0         |
| Other - Please only use if no alternative                                                     | ≤5        | 6         | ≤5        |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                  | <b>73</b> | <b>81</b> | <b>75</b> |

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