

Date 29 July 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11658

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – POSTPARTUM HAEMORRHAGE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to postpartum haemorrhage.

Question:

- In every year since 2020/21, amongst women giving birth in maternity units in your health board, how many cases have there been of: For (1), (2) (3) and (4), please can you also tell me what portion of all births in each year since 2020/21 these cases represented.
- Minor primary postpartum haemorrhage;
 - Major primary postpartum haemorrhage;

Answer:

year	major	minor	major %	minor %
2021	1162	2673	13.52%	31.09%
2022	1136	2592	13.97%	31.87%
2023	1156	2823	14.64%	35.76%
2024	1229	2936	15.08%	36.02%
2025	1174	2775	15.22%	35.97%

Question:

- Secondary postpartum haemorrhage and

Answer:

I am advised that this information is not held in a centrally extractable format, it would require a free text search on over 40,000 women. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

Question:

4. Serious perineal tears?

Answer:

year	3rd/4th Degree tear	3rd/4th Degree tear %
2021	215	2.50%
2022	221	2.72%
2023	192	2.43%
2024	259	3.18%
2025	207	2.68%

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 www.itspublicknowledge.info/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 FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head 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/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive