

Freedom of Information request 347-17

Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act can I ask for the following information:

Q1) How many babies were born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (showing signs of drug addiction because of their mother taking drugs during pregnancy) at hospitals run by your trust in each of the past five financial years?

Q2) Please breakdown the figure from Q1. giving the age of each mother and the substance she was addicted to?

Q3) Please tell me how much it cost to care for these babies as well as the mothers with addictions to illegal drugs in a hospital/other facility your NHS Trust runs in each of the past five financial years?

Response

The number of new born babies cared for by NHS Borders services who are subject to the effects of their mothers drug or alcohol misuse is very small. We withhold actual numbers where the number of patients is less than five. This is to help maintain patient confidentiality due to the potential risk of disclosure and is in line with Code of Practice for Official Statistics, available on the [UK Statistics Authority website](http://www.statistics.gov.uk) and falls under FOI(S)A exemption Section 38(2) Personal Information.

Information on drugs misuse in pregnancy can be found on the ISD website at the following link:

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Maternity-and-Births/Births/>

NHS Borders does not hold data on specific costs involved in treating neonatal abstinence syndrome, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this cannot be provided.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **347-17** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.

