

Freedom of Information request 56-18

Request

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Please provide the following information to help us to assess variation in accessibility to maternal request caesarean sections.

- Advise how many maternal request caesarean sections with no obstetric, medical or significant psychological reason were carried out by each obstetric unit within your Trust between April 2016 and April 2017.
- Provide a copy of any locally agreed guidelines, staff guidelines and patient information leaflets that explain how requests for maternal request caesarean sections will be handled by the Trust.
- Please provide an explanation as to how you specifically meet NICE CG132 1.2.9.5 and if you are not, please provide the reason.

Response

- NHS Borders do not record maternal request caesarean sections with no obstetric, medical or significant psychological reason, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
- NHS Borders do not have any locally agreed guidelines, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.
- NHS Borders meet NICE CG132 1.2.9.5 using the following guidelines:
 - Women who request a caesarean section are seen at a consultant antenatal clinic.
 - Women who have anxiety are offered support and counselling from a senior midwifery manager who specialises in this area.
 - Women who request a caesarean section and following discussion and support if a vaginal birth is not an option they are offered a planned section.
 - If an Obstetrician was unwilling to perform a caesarean section for maternal request they would then refer the woman to another consultant.

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 **56-18** 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.