

Freedom of Information request 388-18

Request & Response

I am writing to ask if you could please provide me with the total number of live births together with the number of live births of babies who have Down's syndrome in NHS Borders in the past 7 years?

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of live births	1178	1129	1141	1123	1033	1037	972	866
Number of live births with Down syndrome	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	0	<5	0

Can you also please furnish me with details of Non-Invasive Prenatal Screening (NIPT) offers to mothers from 2010 to 2017 as below?

NIPT Offers	Dates From - to
NIPT offered for free in NHS Borders (also interested to know to what chance level this would be offered ie 1:150 or other)	Not offered for free by NHS Borders.
NIPT mentioned as an option, but only available outside NHS Borders (ie by private providers not connected with NHS Borders)	Offered on a private basis by Consultant to mothers who have an increased chance result from 1st trimester screen i.e. higher than 1:150. Counseled and carried by Consultant at BGH with charge of £300. Patient receives an invoice and pays directly to the company. Has been offered on this basis for approx 1 year.
NIPT mentioned as an option, and available within NHS Borders (ie midwives from NHS Borders will take the blood) if expectant individual willing to pay	Not available.

As the number of events in some areas are very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

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 **388-18** 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.