

Freedom of Information request 414-18

Request

Under freedom of information I would please like to know the numbers of women who have attempted a home birth over the past ten years, year by year.

I would also please like to know of these women, what percentage ended up having a hospital birth and the reasons why (for e.g. medical intervention necessary).

Response

Please find below data on the number of women who have attempted a home birth over the past ten years:

Year	Planned Homebirth	Actual Homebirth	Hospital Birth %
2009	20	10	50%
2010	9	<5	55%
2011	23	13	43%
2012	14	11	21%
2013	17	11	35%
2014	14	10	29%
2015	14	9	36%
2016	14	7	50%
2017	9	5	55%
2018	-	<5	-

Reasons for hospital births for those who had planned a home birth:

- Cancelled homebirth plan
- Induced in hospital
- Medical intervention
- Elected to be transferred to hospital
- Emergency section

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 **414-18** 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.