

Freedom of Information request 111-20

Request

With reference to a response from the Scottish Ministers (appended), may I ask the following under FOISA 2002:

1. Do you employ or contract specialist bereavement midwives?
 - a) If so, can you tell me how many FTE you employed in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 to date?
 - b) How many said positions are vacant?
 - c) If none are employed, can you tell me how many staff you have trained in delivering bereavement care
2. Has the board engaged with the National Bereavement Care Pathway as described in the Minister's response appended?
 - a) Can you describe the depth of participation and whether the board's approach to bereavement care will change in future?
 - b) Do you have any particular strategy with dealing with men and neonatal bereavement?

Question S5W-26853: Alexander Burnett, Aberdeenshire West, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 07/01/2020

To ask the Scottish Government how many specialist bereavement midwives are employed by each NHS board, also broken down by how many positions are vacant.

Answered by Joe FitzPatrick (20/01/2020):

Information on the number of specialist bereavement midwives employed by each Health Board is not collected centrally. However, we know that some Health Boards have specialist bereavement midwives; other Health Boards take a different approach and have individuals or teams trained in and delivering bereavement care. All Health Boards have at least one midwife trained in bereavement and offering maternity bereavement care as part of their role.

Scottish Government has provided funding of £94,000 to Sands to lead and develop the National Bereavement Care Pathway with other baby loss charities and Royal Colleges to improve the quality of bereavement care. The Pathway will launch this Spring.

Response

1. No, NHS Borders does not employ specialist bereavement midwives.
 - a. Not applicable.
 - b. Not applicable.
 - c. Six Band 7s and three Band 6s are trained in delivering bereavement care. Within the bereavement team there are one Band 7 and three Band 6s.
2. Yes.
 - a. Currently we have a bereavement team providing support following a loss. This is due to us being a small district hospital with a birth rate of approximately 950 deliveries per year. It is felt that parents bereaved of a child will be referred to a specialist organisation such as SiMBA or Sands, or are supported by healthcare team involved with child and family, for example Children's community nurse, GP, CHAS. Thus service can be available for any loss at any gestation.
 - b. Not at present.

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 **111-20** 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.