

Freedom of Information request 339-20

Request and Response

I would like to request information relating to the multiple pregnancies cared for at NHS Borders

The unit level data requested is for the following categories:

1. Number of Multiple Birth Pregnancies (e.g. twins, triplets, quads +)
 - 2017 – 6
 - 2018 – 13
 - 2019 - 6
2. Number of Foetuses delivered from a Multiple Birth
 - <5
3. Multiple Birth Still Births (number of babies)
 - 2017 – 0
 - 2018 – <5
 - 2019 - 0
4. Multiple Birth pregnancies resulting in an Emergency C-Sections
 - 2017 - 0
 - 2018 - 0
 - 2019 - 0
5. Multiple Birth Neonatal Deaths (number of babies)
 - 2017 - 0
 - 2018 – <5
 - 2019 - 0
6. Multiple Birth Neonatal Admissions (number of babies admitted to a neonatal unit for their care)
 - 2017 - <5
 - 2018 – <5
 - 2019 - <5

For each of the following years 2017, 2018 and 2019:

7. Please also confirm if current antenatal care for multiple pregnancies (in 2020 and going forward) is delivered by a "a core team of named specialist obstetricians, specialist midwives and sonographers, all of whom have experience and knowledge of managing twin and triplet pregnancies" in accordance with NICE guideline NG137.

All multiple pregnancies are cared for by a team led by a Consultant Obstetrician with a specialist interest in fetal medicine and multiple pregnancies. Ultrasound examination is carried out by the Consultant or a Midwife Sonographer. As a District General Hospital we do not have a specialist midwife. Care is supported by the Tertiary centre in NHS Lothian as required.

8. Finally, how many perinatal mortality reviews involving multiple births have been conducted since 2018 and what changes have been made as a result of them?

There were <5 mortality reviews undertaken. There were no indications for changes in practice identified.

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 **339-20** 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.