

## Freedom of Information request 73-21

---

### Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your trust:

1. The number of pregnant women your trust has treated for Covid-19 between 1st March 2020 and 31st January 2021?
2. The number of pregnant women your trust has treated in ICU for Covid-19 between 1st March 2020 and 31st January 2021?
3. The number of women who had recently given birth that required treatment for Covid-19 by your trust between 1st March 2020 and 31st January 2021?
4. The number of women that had recently given birth and required treatment for Covid-19 in ICU at your trust between 1st March 2020 and 31st January 2021?
5. The number of maternal deaths in your trust where Covid-19 or a Covid-19 related illness was recorded as the cause of death between 1st March 2020 and 31st January 2021?
6. The total number of maternal deaths (from all causes) in your trust for the period 1st March 2020 to 31st January 2021?
7. The total number of maternal deaths (from all causes) in your trust for the period 1st March 2019 to 31st January 2020?
8. The number of pregnant workers in your trust (employees, agency workers, self-employed or locum) that are currently in patient-facing roles?

### Clarification Received:

- **With regard to the first and third questions, by "treated for Covid-19" do you mean patients who required inpatient admission for treatment of COVID-19 symptoms?**

**For both inpatient and outpatient admissions please.**

- **How are you defining "maternal deaths"? Do you mean deaths during pregnancy?**

**A maternal death is defined internationally as a death of a woman during or up to six weeks (42 days) after the end of pregnancy (whether the pregnancy ended by termination, miscarriage or a birth, or was an ectopic pregnancy) through causes associated with, or exacerbated by, pregnancy (World Health Organisation 2010).**

## Response

1. There were <5 pregnant women treated for Covid-19 between 1st March 2020 and 31st January 2021 at Borders General Hospital.
2. There were no pregnant women treated in ICU for Covid-19 between 1st March 2020 and 31st January 2021 at Borders General Hospital.
3. There were <5 women who had recently given birth that required treatment for Covid-19 at Borders General Hospital between 1st March 2020 and 31st January 2021.
4. There were <5 women that had recently given birth and required treatment for Covid-19 in ICU at Borders General Hospital between 1st March 2020 and 31st January 2021.
5. There were no maternal deaths where Covid-19 or a Covid-19 related illness was recorded as the cause of death between 1st March 2020 and 31st January 2021 at Borders General Hospital.
6. There were no maternal deaths (from all causes) at Borders General Hospital from 1st March 2020 to 31st January 2021.
7. There were no maternal deaths (from all causes) at Borders General Hospital from 1st March 2019 to 31st January 2020.
8. NHS Borders does not collate or record this data; as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and therefore this data cannot be provided. Under Section 15, Duty to provide advice and assistance please note that NHS Borders has implemented the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecology guidance and risk assessment [Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists](#) to try and keep the risk of exposure as low as is practically possible to pregnant women, particularly in the third trimester. An individual risk assessment for a pregnant worker is completed and reviewed in each trimester especially when approaching 28 weeks of pregnancy when social distancing is particularly important. From 28 weeks' gestation pregnant employees are recommended to work at home, no pregnant worker from 28 weeks of pregnancy is required to work in a patient facing role.

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](mailto: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 **73-21** 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.