

## Freedom of Information request 201-21

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### Request

1. How many maternal request caesareans were carried out in your Trust between April 2019 and April 2020 with no other significant medical, obstetric or psychological indication?
2. What were the total number of caesarean sections carried out in your Trust between April 2019 and April 2020?
3. Please confirm how your Trust complies with the revised NICE guideline [NG192] in relation to Maternal Request for Caesarean Birth points 1.2.25 – 1.2.31 – published March 31 2021 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng192/chapter/Recommendations>
4. Please can you provide information relating to the following questions:
  - a. Do you have an explicitly stated policy not to offer Maternal Request Caesarean Sections (MRCS) in your Trust?
  - b. Do you have a written guideline for Maternal Request Caesarean Sections (MRCS) in your Trust? If yes, please provide a copy of the written guideline
  - c. Do you require a compulsory mental health appointment in order for a Caesarean Section to be offered?
  - d. Do you have a policy which states the number of weeks into pregnancy the decision for a Caesarean Section would be made? If yes please state number of weeks
  - e. Are there any other conditions which must be met in order to be offered a Maternal Request Caesarean Section in your Trust? If yes, please provide a copy of the conditions

### Response

1. There were 11 maternal request c-sections carried out at NHS Borders between April 2019 and April 2020. Please note this does not include women with previous caesarean sections who would have been suitable for vaginal birth.
2. There were 264 c-sections in total carried out at NHS Borders between April 2019 and April 2020.
3. NHS Borders complies with the NICE guideline by discussing and documenting the reasons behind the request and through a discussion of the pros and cons of a maternal request c-section. Women with previous traumatic birth experiences or who wish further discussion are offered an appointment with a senior midwife who specialises in birth choices and previous traumatic delivery. Close liaison with mental health and support professionals, where appropriate, is facilitated.
4.
  - a. No.
  - b. No, NICE guideline is used as our standard.
  - c. No.
  - d. No, this is usually discussed when the woman requests, but can be at any point.
  - e. No.

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 **201-21** 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.