

## Freedom of Information request 158-22

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### Request

1. What proportion (or number) of women presenting for a medical abortion took a) both pills at the clinic b) one pill at the clinic and one at home and c) both pills at home, for each of the past 5 years?
2. How many a) ERPC (Evacuation of Retained Products of Conception) procedures and b) how many women presented with RPOC (Retained Products of Conception) for each of the past 5 years?

### Response

1. NHS Borders do not hold this data on our patient management systems and would need to manually locate and check all patient records. The Board calculates that the work required to provide the information would exceed the amount prescribed for responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Under Section 12(1) Excessive cost of compliance, of the Act, we are not obliged to provide you with the information.

Please see our calculation below:

To extract this data would require a manual trawl of 890 patient records, therefore;

- To locate, retrieve and collect data from each record would take a minimum of 15 minutes.  $890 \times 15$  minutes = 222.5 hours
- Public authorities can charge a maximum of £15 per hour to comply with a request.  $222.5$  hours  $\times$  £15 per hour is a total of £3337.50

Under the FOI(S)A 2002 public authorities are not required to provide information where the cost of responding to the request exceeds £600. A public authority is entitled to charge for the direct and indirect costs incurred in locating, retrieving and providing information.

Under Section 15 of the FOI(S)A 2002 Duty to provide advice and assistance information on the number of medical terminations can be found at the following published data:

<https://www.opendata.nhs.scot/dataset/termination-of-pregnancy-in-scotland/resource/7ef75a65-99ad-43e9-a37f-99a0d795655b>

2. Please see the tables below:

- a. The number of Evacuation of Retained Products of Conception procedures:

Financial year	Number of procedures
2017/18	45
2018/19	34
2019/20	38
2020/21	21
2021/22	32
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>170</b>

b. The number of patients who presented with Retained Products of Conception:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of patients</b>
2017/18	172
2018/19	108
2019/20	104
2020/21	53
2021/22	85
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>522</b>

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 **158-22** 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.