

## Freedom of Information request 648-22

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### Request

I would like to know if you can confirm the number of Neonatal deaths in NHS Borders in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (to date).

Specifically, in the months September 2021 and March 2022, if you could confirm the number of neonatal deaths in this period only, and for each of these deaths please provide me with the COVID vaccination status of the mother (e.g. did they have nil, one or two COVID vaccinations at the time of birth).

### Response

The numbers of Neonatal deaths (babies died within 28 days of birth) in NHS Borders and the COVID vaccination status of the mothers at the time of the births are:

Year	Number of Neonatal Deaths	Number of Covid vaccinations
2019	<5	Not Applicable
2020	<5	Not Applicable
2021	0	-
2022	<5	Between 1 and 3 inclusive

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of Neonatal deaths per is very small, and to provide further details could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018. We are therefore withholding all other data under Section 38(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is also 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 **648-22** 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.