

## Freedom of Information request 195-23

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### Request

1. How many neonatal deaths (deaths in infants who are 28 days old or younger) have there been in hospitals in this health board in 2023? Please also provide data for each calendar year since 2018.
2. Whenever possible, please break these deaths down by cause of death.
3. How much has been spent on neonatal services in this health board in each financial year since 2018/19?

### Response

1. The number of neonatal deaths in NHS Borders hospitals is:

Year	Neonatal Deaths
2018	0
2019	<5
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
2023 to date	<5

2. A post-mortem is not always requested in the event of a neonatal death, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
3. Neonatal Services are not uniquely classified as a service area within the NHS Borders finance systems, and therefore we are not able to identify the associated costs, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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 **195-23** 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.