

Information Governance
Department
14 Lister Street
University Hospital Crosshouse
Crosshouse
Kilmarnock KA2 0BB



Elizabeth Thomson

Date 17 September 2019

Your Ref

Our Ref 448/2019

Enquiries to Freedom of Information
Extension 26112

Direct line 01563 826112

E-mail foi@aaaht.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Ms Thomson,

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

Thank-you for your request for the provision of the following information.

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Please send me:

- The number of patients who contracted sepsis postpartum - up to 10 days post birth - in each of the last 7 years: 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, broken down by:
 - hospital (inc which hospital the patient gave birth in) or home birth
 - method of delivery, e.g c section or vaginal.

Response:

Patients with post partum Sepsis Ayrshire and Arran. All patients admitted to University Crosshouse Hospital.

Financial Year	Number of patients	Number of Caesarean Sections	Number of Home births
2012/2013*	7	<5**	0
2013/2014*	19	9	0
2014/2015	32	12	0
2015/2016	56	28	0
2016/2017	49	24	0
2017/2018	38	18	0
2018/2019	38	8	<5**

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*Please note our records may be incomplete for these years. We only have full electronic data going back five years. Before that the system was implemented firstly at University Hospital Crosshouse and then at University Hospital Ayr.

It is not possible without reviewing each individual patient's case notes to provide the detail requested. We would need to identify these patients, retrieve and read through each health record to extract the relevant data. This would be burdensome on our limited resources and a time consuming exercise. We estimate this would take several hours and be out with the cost of compliance as this would exceed the £600 prescribed limit set in regulation 5 of the Freedom of Information (Fees for Required Disclosure)(Scotland) Regulations 2004. Therefore NHS Ayrshire & Arran is not obliged under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to comply with your request.

You may wish to narrow the parameters of your request, which may bring the cost of compliance below the threshold. Any further request for information will be treated as a new Freedom of Information request. If you wish to narrow your request please contact me and we can discuss what could be provided within the cost limit.

In coming to this decision we have taken into account the guidance provided by the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) on applying section 12.

**We have withheld any figure fewer than five (<5). We are unable to break these figures down any further as we are bound by the laws of confidentiality in respect of patients. We believe that to provide the exact number for the information requested may lead to these patients being identified and would amount to unfair processing of personal data in contravention of Article 5(1) (a) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which states personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject. Therefore this information is exempt from disclosure under section 38 (1) (b) of FOISA. The exemption is absolute, meaning it is not subject to the public interest test in section 2(1) of FOISA.

I trust this response is helpful. However, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 if you are dissatisfied with our response you are entitled to request a review. A request for a review must be made in writing to Mrs Jillian Neilson, Head of Information Governance, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, 14 Lister Street, University Hospital Crosshouse, Kilmarnock, KA2 0BB or email InformationGovernance@aapct.scot.nhs.uk, no later than 40 working days from 18 September 2019. You must provide your full name, an address for correspondence, details of your original request and say why you would like a review.

If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further advice or assistance.

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Yours sincerely,

Tara Palmer
Freedom of Information Officer
Information Governance
NHS Ayrshire & Arran
14 Lister Street, University Hospital Crosshouse
Kilmarnock KA2 0BE