

Elizabeth Thomson
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Date 24/09/2019
Our Ref: RD/am FOI Ref 6923
Direct Line 01463 717123
Email High-UHB.FOIRRequestsHighland@nhs.net

Dear Ms Thomson,

**Freedom of Information Act Request Ref 6923
Sepsis**

With reference to your request for information dated August 31st 2019 regarding the above, please find below your questions and our responses:-

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.**

We consulted with national colleagues at ISD and there is no national publication and no existing agreed specification for extracting such information.

Public authorities are not required to create information in order to answer a request and there's a distinction between creating new information and compiling information from readily available resources in the Commissioner's adjudications. This request would require us to create a completely new process for the data extraction with additional complex judgement required to interpret any output. Therefore, in this instance, we must advise you the information requested is not held by NHS Highland and that exemption would apply under section 17(1) of the FOISA.

We suggest you use the [Information Request Service](#) available from ISD. This service deals with complex queries but is chargeable depending on how long it will take to produce the information. We also suggest you discuss the output format of any information with the team at ISD. Given the number of annual births in some hospital locations and the incidence of sepsis the numbers involved will be very small. Therefore the way that the data is currently requested for presentation would result in a lot of suppression of numbers to meet with disclosure control procedures that are in place to protect patients from identification. In this context pregnancy events are a sensitive subject area with additional rules.

I hope this information is helpful. If you are unhappy with my response, I am very happy to discuss this with you further. Alternatively you have the right to ask for an internal review by making a formal request in writing to the Freedom of Information Officer, NHS Highland, Assynt House, Beechwood Park, Inverness, IV2 3BW or via email at High-UHB.FOIRRequestsHighland@nhs.net. Your request should explain why you wish a



Headquarters: Assynt House, Beechwood Park, INVERNESS IV2 3BW

Interim Chair: Professor Boyd Robertson
Chief Executive: Iain Stewart

review to be carried out and should be made within forty working days of receiving this letter.

If you remain dissatisfied following the investigation of your review, then you have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of the date of receiving the review response. Contact details are as follows:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

e-mail: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

Yours sincerely

Anna McNally
Freedom of Information Administrator

On behalf of

Ruth Daly
Board Secretary