

## Corporate Administration

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde  
Corporate HQ  
J B Russell House  
Gartnavel Royal Hospital  
Campus  
1055 Great Western Road  
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G12 0XH



Telephone: 0141 201 4444

Mr J... C...

<b>Date</b>	14 January 2022
<b>Your Ref</b>	
<b>Our Ref</b>	
<b>Direct Line</b>	Working Remotely
<b>Email</b>	-

Dear Mr C.....

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 FOI Request xxxxx Male Circumcision**

Thank you for your request received on 25 November 2021 for the provision of the following information:-

#### **Male Circumcision**

We are treating your request under our procedures for responding to requests for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The information that we are able to provide in response to your request is given below.

I am aware that this response has been issued to you outside the statutory timescale of 20 working days as set out in the Act, and I offer my apologies for the delay in responding. We always endeavour to comply with this timescale but unfortunately this is not always possible.

#### **1) How many male circumcisions were carried out for religious and cultural reasons at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde**

NHSGGC can confirm that, during 2020/2021 10 ritual male circumcisions were carried out for religious and cultural reasons. In 2021/22 there have been no male circumcisions carried out.

#### **2) The average cost of carrying out male circumcision for each procedure**

NHSGGC can confirm that we are not able to provide a cost per case for an individual procedure as that information is not held or available. Our accounts are set up to record costs against specific wards units and departments but not against procedures. This is standard across NHS Scotland, therefore under Section 17 of FOISA I am required to advise you that the information you have requested is not held.

Some information on health service costs is publicly available. Public Health Scotland (PHS) publish information on Scottish Health Services Costs and this is available at the following links:

<https://beta.isdscotland.org/topics/finance/costs/>

<https://beta.isdscotland.org/topics/finance/file-listings-fy-2019-to-2020/>

#### **3) The reasons why it is NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde policy of male circumcision between 6 months and 9 months when for example outside providers perform procedure from birth onwards with local anaesthetic not general anaesthetic and use medical devices for example Circumplast.**

NHSGGC is currently planning to bring in a nurse led plastibell service for babies born under six weeks of age in 2022/2023.

**4) Is male circumcision offered to all new parents of male children regardless of religious and cultural background and are 100% of parents informed of that procedure is available at pre-natal at hospital and local General practice under equality and diversity. Pre-natal at hospital and local General practice under equality and diversity.**

NHSGGC can confirm that the policy referred to is Scottish Government policy which was published in 2008. This is available in archive format on the Scottish Government website.

Following concerns raised by our anaesthetic colleagues, the actual age for non-therapeutic circumcision was raised to 12 months. There are external agencies in Glasgow that offer local anaesthetic procedures for non-therapeutic circumcisions, and a service to provide this within the Royal Hospital for Children was in a development phase prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. Note referral criteria will be amended to reflect new service when introduced.

We will in the immediate term offer operation at twelve months of age under anaesthetic, however we must advise that currently, the only elective operative procedures being performed in the Royal Hospital for Children are for conditions that have been categorised as high priority. We cannot predict when we will recommence elective activity for children with lower priority procedures, or non-therapeutic.

I hope that this is helpful. If you are not satisfied with our response to your request, you have a right to request a review of this decision within 40 working days of receiving this response. The attached note describes our review procedure. Your request for review must be in permanent form and should state:

- That you are asking for a review of this decision and
- Why you are unhappy with the response you have received.

If you wish us to carry out a review, please complete the form enclosed and return it to the Head of Corporate Governance and Administration, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Corporate HQ, JB Russell House, Gartnavel Royal Hospital, 1055 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0XH or by email to [foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

If following a review you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you have the right to ask for advice, assistance or to make a formal appeal in writing to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of receiving the outcome of a review. The Commissioner can be contacted at: Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS or at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

If following appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner you still remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you have a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law against the decision of the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Should you require any clarification about this letter or the right to request a review please contact me at the details at the top of the first page of this letter.

Yours sincerely

*Russell Greig*

**Russell Greig**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**

Standard Enclosures: Request For Review Form / Procedure for review of decision notified