

## Freedom of Information request

**Source of request:** UK Medical Freedom Alliance (Scotland)

**Date request received:** 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022

“We wish to challenge the graphic published by the NPEU in 2021 entitled “Key Information on COVID-19 in Pregnancy”.”

### Information requested with responses:

INFORMATION REQUESTED	INFORMATION PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO FOI
<b>Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), we request the following information regarding your data about “Deaths of women with COVID-19 acquired during or up to six weeks after pregnancy” as of 16 December 2021</b>	
1) How many of the 34 women included in your data had COVID-19 mentioned on their death certificate as the main cause of death?	34 women died from COVID-19. This figure does not include women who died ‘with’ COVID-19.
2) How many of the 34 women included in your data had COVID-19 mentioned on their death certificate as a contributory factor to the cause of death?	None
3) How many pregnant / postnatal women died in total during those periods and how does that number compare to previous years?	We do not yet have the final figure as not all deaths have been submitted to us.
4) At what stage of, or after, pregnancy did the 4 babies who “died from COVID-19” die and how many of them had COVID-19 mentioned on their death certificate as the main cause of death?	All 4 died in the neonatal period from COVID-19.
<b>Under the FOIA, we request the following information regarding your data about “Outcomes of COVID-19 for 1,436 women admitted to hospital with symptoms” between 16th May 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021:</b>	

5) How many pregnant women in total were admitted to ICU during this period and how does this compare to previous years?	We do not collect this information and therefore are unable to provide it.
6) How do the pregnancy outcomes (19% preterm birth / 2% pregnancy loss / 2% stillbirths) compare to all pregnant women admitted to ICU?	We do not collect this information and therefore are unable to provide it.
<b>Regarding your graphic suggesting that unvaccinated pregnant women are disproportionately at risk of hospitalisation and ICU admission due to COVID-19, we request the following information:</b>	
7) How many pregnant women were vaccinated against COVID-19 during this period?	We do not collect this information and therefore are unable to provide it.
8) Have you included women who were within three weeks of their first COVID-19 vaccine dose in the group classified as “unvaccinated”?	No
9) Which evidence do you rely upon to support your claim that currently available COVID-19 vaccines are effective in preventing hospitalisation in pregnant women?	<p>This evidence is encompassed within the following publications:</p> <p>Vousden N, Ramakrishnan R, Bunch K, Morris E, Simpson N et al. Management and implications of severe COVID-19 in pregnancy in the UK: data from the UK Obstetric Surveillance System national cohort <i>Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand.</i> 2022 Apr;101(4):461-470. doi: 10.1111/aogs.14329. Epub 2022 Feb 25.</p> <p>Vousden N, Ramakrishnan R, Bunch K, et al. Severity of maternal infection and perinatal outcomes during periods of SARS-CoV-2 wildtype, alpha, and delta variant dominance in the UK: prospective cohort study. <i>BMJ Medicine</i> 2022;1:e000053. doi: 10.1136/bmjmed-2021-000053. Published Online First: 02 Mar 2022.</p> <p>Stocks et al. SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 vaccination rates in pregnancy women in Scotland. <i>Nat Med.</i> 2022 Mar;28(3):504-512. doi: 10.1038/s41591-021-01666-2. Epub 2022 Jan 13</p>

	<p>Prasad S, Kalafat E, Blakeway H, Townsend R, O'Brien P, Morris E, Draycott T, Thangaratinam S, Le Doare K, Ladhani S, von Dadelszen P, Magee LA, Heath P, Khalil A. Systematic review and meta-analysis of the effectiveness and perinatal outcomes of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy. <i>Nat Commun.</i> 2022 May 10;13(1):2414. doi: 10.1038/s41467-022-30052-w. PMID: 35538060; PMCID: PMC9090726.</p>
<p>10) How do you explain that the rate of death with COVID-19, acquired during or up to six weeks after pregnancy, is 3.85 times higher after the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines to pregnant women compared to the initial phase when the novel SARS-CoV-2 spread in a community with no prior immunity?</p>	<p>There are several explanations including the difference in severity of maternal illness during the different waves of SARS-CoV-2, particularly the Delta wave, the different level of population exposure due to reduced public health control measures (e.g. shielding, lockdown, mask wearing) and low levels of vaccination. These and other explanations are discussed in the following publication:</p> <p>Vousden N, Ramakrishnan R, Bunch K, et al. Severity of maternal infection and perinatal outcomes during periods of SARS-CoV-2 wildtype, alpha, and delta variant dominance in the UK: prospective cohort study. <i>BMJ Medicine</i> 2022;1:e000053. doi: 10.1136/bmjmed-2021-000053. Published Online First: 02 Mar 2022.</p>