

Subject: Request for information regarding Live Certificate of Birth.

FOI reference: 202000062625

Date received: 15 July 2020

Date responded: 23 July 2020

Information requested:

Requesting information on where original Live Certificate of Birth is held.

NRS Response:

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance National Records of Scotland does not have the information requested.

NRS is responsible for the arrangements of registering births in Scotland and maintains the statutory registers of births and still births. Information from the birth registers is given by way of certificates also known as official extracts (full or abbreviated).

In Scotland a birth card is provided by a hospital or midwife and taken by parents to the local authority registrar when registering a birth. The retention period of local registration documentation is not very long. Local registrars normally only keep that information for as long as it is relevant, which is usually until such time as the register entry is created in the official birth registration register and once this entry has been examined by the District Examiner. Please note the only record that would be held is the register page itself from the original birth register that is sent to the National Records of Scotland (NRS) for preservation by the Registrar General for Scotland.

This register entry is used to produce an extract. This is the only document which NRS can produce for a birth entry. To purchase a copy online at www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk once our service, which we have had to suspend because of the Coronavirus, resumes. The cost is £12 per certificate plus postage.

The latest update on our service status can be found on the NRS website at:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/about-us/service-status>

The relevant local authority register office could be contacted to see if the birth card document has been retained. Alternatively contact the Data Protection Team of the relevant NHS Health Board or hospital, as the issuers of the birth card, to see if the document has been retained within medical records.

More information on the Health Boards in Scotland can be found by following the link below and by selecting the relevant Health Board:

<https://www.scot.nhs.uk/organisations/>

They will also be able to advise on any costs which may apply, should they have the information requested.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that National Records of Scotland does not have the information requested.