



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-051

Date: 7th June 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 27th April 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding antenatal appointments.

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a partner present at antenatal appointments?

A1 Yes

Q2 Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a partner present at scans?



A2 Yes

Q3 Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a birthing partner present during labour? If so, at what point and how many?

A3 Two birth partners can attend when the woman is admitted in established labour

Q4 Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a birthing partner present during birth? If so, at what point and how many?

A4 Two birth partners can attend when the woman is admitted in established labour

Q5 Has the Covid Pandemic resulted in the Trust having to reduce the number of partners present at appointments, scans, labour or birth in the last two years? If so, has this yet returned to pre-pandemic procedure?

A5 Yes, the Covid Pandemic resulted in the Trust having to reduce the number of partners present at appointments, scans, labour or birth in the last two years.

Maternity Visiting

Antenatal appointments

- Up to one partner can attend all hospital based antenatal appointments
- Up to two partners can attend all community based appointments

Scans

- One partner can attend all scan appointments

Induction of labour and birthing visiting

- Two birth partners can accompany the woman for induction of labour, established labour and birth

Ward visiting (205 and 206)

Visiting is permitted between the times of 9AM and 9PM for partners and own children only. General visiting is permitted between the times of 6PM and 9PM. No more than 2 visitors per bed at one time (including the partner). Children must not be left unsupervised with patients on the ward.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

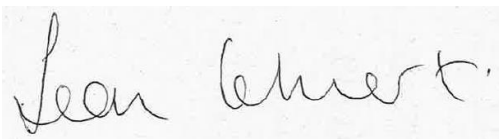
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager