

Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-555

Date: 7th December 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 22nd November 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Mortality Rates and Birth Injuries

On 23rd November 2023 we contacted you via email as to continue with your request we require clarification the following:

1.A What are mortality rates amongst mothers between 1 November 2021 to 1 November 2023?

- Are you asking how many in total have occurred within this date range or the 'rate' of deaths per xx number of deliveries?
- What are you considering to be a death amongst mothers? ..
 - o From pregnancy till what date range post loss/delivery?
 - o During 'Delivery'?
 - o Please note we may not always hold data on deaths once discharged from Maternity services.

2.A What are birth injury rates amongst mothers between 1 November 2021 to 1 November 2023?

- What are you considering a birth 'injury'.
- Is this in relation to the mother or the baby?
- (dependant on answer we may not be able to obtain this without reviewing patient notes anyway)

On 24th November 2023 you replied via email with:

1. Within date range. Deaths in relation to women from pregnancy till post loss/delivery.
2. Any injuries sustained when the mother is giving birth. In relation to the mother.

However:

You appear to have simply repeated the same question without providing the required clarification.

We'd need to understand what date range post pregnancy end to attempt to find potential deaths – for example 0-28 days post pregnancy end / delivery event.

Are you wanting total volumes of 'deaths' for the date period? (a rate we could argue is 1:2500 – 1 death for each 5000 pregnancies for example)

We also need to understand what you consider an 'injury' as this is hugely subjective, and we require clinical clarification on what you're expecting.

Depending on the list of injuries provided we may not be able to obtain this without reviewing patient notes.

On the same day you replied via email with:

'28 days post pregnancy.

I would like total volumes of death.

Data for the following injuries:

*3rd and 4th degree perineal tears
fissures*

*incorrect suturing (stitching) following an episiotomy or a Caesarean section.
failure to manage pre-eclampsia or other infections'.*

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 What are mortality rates amongst mothers between 1 November 2021 to 1 November 2023?

A1 See below:

2021 0.37%
2022 0.21%
2023 NIL maternal deaths

Q2 What are birth injury rates amongst mothers between 1 November 2021 to 1 November 2023?

A2 Clarified injuries:

*3rd and 4th degree perineal tears
fissures
incorrect suturing (stitching) following an episiotomy or a Caesarean section
failure to manage pre-eclampsia or other infections'*

01-11-22 – 31-10-23 = 139 Documented 3rd and 4th degree tears

Third and fourth degree tears

Quarter 3 Oct-Dec 2021 3.57% Oct 13, Nov 13, Dec 13.
Quarter 4 Jan-Mar 2022 2.87% Jan 13, Feb 11, Mar 4
Quarter 1 Apr-Jun 2022 3.13% Apr 8, May 15, Jun 8
Quarter 2 Jul-Sep 2022 3.16% Jul 17, Aug 9, Sep 9
Quarter 3 Oct-Dec 2022 2.51% Oct 14, Nov 4, Dec 19
Quarter 4 Jan-Mar 2023 3.35% Jan 13, Feb 11, Mar 4
Quarter 1 Apr-Jun 2023 2.68% Apr 13, May 23, Jun 15
Quarter 2 Jul-Sep 2023 1.96% Jul 11, Aug 12, Sep 6

Q3 How much compensation has the Trust paid out in birth injury claims in the same period irrespective of when the claim was made?

A3 Information not held by UHNM, please contact NHS resolution who may hold this data:

<https://resolution.nhs.uk/contact/>

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

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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.

Yours,





University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

