



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-468

Date: 23rd January 2025

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 15th October 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding maternity unit

We apologise for the delay

Q1 Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information about each maternity unit within your Trust:

What type of unit this is - delivery unit or birth centre. If birth centre, is this on the same site as a delivery unit or freestanding?

A1 Birth centre which is on the same site as the delivery unit.

Q2 For each individual year over the past 5 years, how many births were there in each setting? In each of those years, what was the number of spontaneous vaginal deliveries and c-sections (please stratify this by category of c-section)?

A2 Please see below:

K2 documented Births (babies) for Registerable deliveries only. Therefore, may include still birth figures

Row Labels	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Grand Total
Breech	27	35	29	28	21	140
Elective Caesarean	830	883	889	910	988	4500
Emergency Caesarean	1286	1419	1362	1383	1504	6954
Forceps	399	325	307	342	318	1691
Standard	3695	3424	3350	3312	2953	16734
Ventouse/Vacuum	204	207	243	187	180	1021
(blank)					1	1
Grand Total	6441	6293	6180	6162	5965	31041

Elective:

Category 4 {Timing to Suit Woman or Clinicians}

Emergency:

Category 1 {Immediate Threat to Life of Woman or Foetus}

Category 2 {Threat of Maternal or Fetal Compromise}

Category 3 {No Threat of Compromise but Needs Early Delivery}

Row Labels	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Grand Total
BBA	71	69	70	66	60	336
County	99	1				100
Home	21	36	8	3	1	69
Stoke	6250	6187	6102	6093	5904	30536
Grand Total	6441	6293	6180	6162	5965	31041

- Q3 Which of the following non-pharmacological forms of pain relief are offered: water pool, TENS, hypnobirthing, aromatherapy, acupuncture, birth comb, sterile water injection**
- A3 Within the birth centre nonpharmacological forms of pain relief include water therapy, breathing techniques. If a woman chooses to hypnobirthing, use TENS or use aromatherapy and acupuncture then we are happy to support this practice.
- Q4 In each individual year over the past 5 years, what has been the number of patients using each of the above non-pharmacological forms of pain relief offered?**
- A4 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in health records (appx 30k delivery events). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*
- Q5 Which of the following pharmacological forms of pain relief are offered: paracetamol, dihydrocodeine, entonox, pethidine, diamorphine, epidural, remifentanil PCA**
- A5 Upon the birthing unit we offer paracetamol, codeine, entonox and pethidine. Please also refer to answer 9.
- Q6 In each individual year over the past 5 years, what has been the number of patients using each of the above pharmacological forms of pain relief offered?**

- A6 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in health records (appx 30k delivery events). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*
- Q7 In each individual year over the past 5 years, how many patients who have an epidural use an alternative form of pain relief prior to requesting an epidural?**
- A7 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in health records (appx 30k delivery events). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*
- Q8 In each individual year over the past 5 years, what proportion of patients are waiting more than 30 minutes to receive an epidural? What is the mean time taken to obtain an epidural by time of day (in hours vs out of hours)?**
- A8 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in health records (appx 30k delivery events). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*
- Q9 If remifentanil PCA is available, how many patients are able to have a PCA at any one time?**
- A9 At UHNM we do offer remifentanil PCA, however we are unable to provide any further detail
- Q10 If remifentanil PCA is available, is this offered to anyone or only in those for whom an epidural is contraindicated?**

- A10 Remifentanil PCA is available on delivery suite and is offered to women where epidural is contraindicated or where an epidural is declined. In my experience it is generally offered secondary to an epidural in labour due to its limited efficacy in comparison to epidural.
- Q11 If remifentanil PCA is not available in a delivery unit, what is the reason for this?**
- A11 Not applicable
- Q12 Out of hours (nights and weekends), how many dedicated anaesthetists are on-site, and has this changed over the past 5 years?**
- A12 There is one dedicated anaesthetist on site overnight and during weekends. If support is required the Roaming anaesthetic consultant (RAC) are asked to attend. To my knowledge this has not changed over the last 5 years.
- Q13 For each individual year over the past 5 years, what proportion of patients are requesting a physiological third stage compared to an active third stage (please stratify this by setting i.e. delivery unit and birth centre)? What proportion of patients who choose physiological third stage management then go on to have a post-partum haemorrhage when compared to those who choose an active third stage?**
- A13 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in health records (appx 30k delivery events). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

*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,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records