



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-532b

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 21st December 2018

Tel: 01782 676474
Email FOI@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 4th December 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding maternity policies/procedures.

On 5th December 2018 we contacted you via email as we required a timeframe.

On the same day you replied via email with the following:

"Q1 Please could I request copies of all maternity policies and procedures"

We would like the most up-to-date policies and procedures with renewal dates indicated.

Q2 Please provide any statistics linking to the amount of stillbirths that have happened at the Royal Stoke Hospital"

We would like the last 5 years statistics to current date December 2018.

Q3 What are the percentage of babies born at 36, 37, 38 weeks who survive birth whether that be through induction or natural birth"

We would like the last 5 years statistics to current date December 2018.

Q4 Finally when are risk assessments carried out and the format that is taken for these"

This does not require a time frame; we would like to see the procedure which is carried out when risk assessments are completed."

Q5 I have looked on the website also for the maternity unit's vision statement, but cannot seem to find this- please could you point me in the right direction for this

This does not require a time frame; we would like to see the ethos and vision statement for the maternity unit and what they are working towards for their strategic planning and development for 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019."

On 6th December 2018 we contacted you via email as we required further clarification on whether the policies you require (Q1) are linked to the remaining questions (Q2-4) or if you require every maternity policy regardless of subject?

On 7th December 2018 you replied via email the following:

"I require all of the policies and procedures relating to maternity not linked to Q2-4."



On 10th December 2018 we contacted you via email as we required further clarification, we asked: Whether it was policies and procedures and not guidelines (Q1). (Q2) did you mean intrapartum stillbirths (so literally SBs that have happened at the hospital); or SBs that have happened that year where the mum was presented with no fetal heart?

The same day you replied via email with the following:

"We require all maternity policies and procedures not guidelines. Do you mean by guidelines general NHS documents that the maternity unit should be following?"

"We require any/and all statistics on Stillbirths that have happened at the hospital for the past 5 years"

On 10th December we required further clarification on question 4 and what you meant by risk assessment and therefore contacted you via email.

You replied via email the following:

"Can you advise us when risk assessments are carried out within the maternity department on any/all pregnancies within the unit and the format in which they are undertaken?"

"Can you also advise me when all of this information will be readily available?"

We responded with thanks and advised you that the Freedom of Information Act (2000) allows 20 working days to respond.

You replied via email with the following query:

"Will this be from the 4/12/18 when the request was first sent?"

On 11th December we responded via email with the following:

As your request has been paused for clarification on:

5/12/18- unpaused 5/12/18 (no time incurred)

5/12/18- unpaused 6/12/18 (1 day added)

10/12/18 –unpaused 10/12/18 (paused and unpaused twice, no time incurred)

On 19th December 2018 you responded to the release of the information by stating:

" Many thanks for your reply, However we have requested all policies and procedures that the maternity unit holds and operates and these seem to not have been included?"

Q3 What are the percentage of babies born at 36, 37, 38 weeks who survive birth whether that be through induction or natural birth"

We would like the last 5 years statistics to current date December 2018. - This information requires a breaking down of each individual week i.e. 36 weeks for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018. 37 weeks 2013,2014,2015,2016,2017,2018, 38 weeks 2013,2014,2015,2016,2017,2018.

Also there is no ethos and vision statement for the maternity unit. Is this just a combined one for the whole of the Trust?"

The 20 day deadline is 07/01/2019; please note that the bank holidays are excluded from the timeframe. UHNM will endeavour to complete before this deadline if at all possible and your request is actively being worked on.

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.

The below response has been amended as per above

Q1 Please could I request copies of all maternity policies and procedures?

A1 Please refer to the attached documents- **(amended)** with additional documents – please note that the maternity department has supplied all the relevant documents.

Q2 Please provide any statistics linking to the amount of stillbirths that have happened at the Royal Stoke Hospital

A2 Please see below: (of all births)

Calendar year	Vol Still	% Total Births
2013	21	0.36%
2014	27	0.45%
2015	22	0.34%
2016	19	0.29%
2017	27	0.42%

Q3 What are the percentage of babies born at 36, 37, 38 weeks who survive birth whether that be through induction or natural birth

A3 Please see below: **amended:**

Calendar year/ gestation	Live births	% Live
2013	1575	99.62%
36	201	99.50%
37	474	100.00%
38	900	99.45%
2014	1719	99.65%
36	197	98.99%
37	599	99.67%
38	923	99.78%
2015	1776	99.89%
36	224	99.56%
37	569	99.82%
38	983	100.00%
2016	1860	99.79%
36	229	99.57%

37	659	99.70%
38	972	99.90%
2017	2011	99.55%
36	229	99.57%
37	797	99.25%
38	985	99.80%

Note – this is looking at the total number of babies born at 36,37,38 weeks of gestation- as per your request (at point of delivery) and the % of those who are live born. The % is not against the full total volume of babies born.

Q4 Finally when are risk assessments carried out and the format that is taken for these?

A4 Risk assessments are carried out at every contact with the woman, initially at booking and then every appointment or attendance. Midwives are trained to recognise abnormal parameters throughout the pregnancy journey. The minimum assessment is blood pressure, urinalysis and fetal heart rate / measurement in pregnancy however midwives will also enquire about the physical and mental health of the woman and any changes. In labour, alongside all physical observations of the mother, the fetal heart is also monitored either intermittently or continuously according to the risk assessment of the labour. Progress of labour is also assessed vaginally as required with consent from the woman. All assessments at any stage of the pregnancy continuum are documented in the electronic clinical records.

Q5 I have looked on the website also for the maternity unit's vision statement, but cannot seem to find this- please could you point me in the right direction for this

A5 Please refer to the attached documents. Please note that we supplied this in our original response- marked "vision" 4 of 5, the maternity department aligns with the Trust values and objectives and vision, this is also freely available on the Trust website found at the following link: [http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Our-Strategy-and-Plans/Documents/171011%202025Vision%20\(for%20website\).pdf](http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Our-Strategy-and-Plans/Documents/171011%202025Vision%20(for%20website).pdf)

*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.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance