

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-302

Date: 13th November 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 21st October 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding caesarean sections.

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 Can you tell me what guidance or material midwives or specialist midwives are given for consideration regarding caesarean sections?

This could include - research, the cost of caesarean and related medical procedures for the hospital/Trust or NHS. If research, please include a brief description - for example, whether the research relates to a possible link between a C-section and autism in children,

A1 We have an evidence based Caesarean Section clinical guideline which is available on our UHNM Trust Intranet site

We provide women with patient information for elective caesarean section – EIDO Leaflet OG03

Q2 Please breakdown whether staff are advised whether to share this information with a patient or not (it may be left up to them of course).

If it does not take me over the limit, I would also like to know -

A2 All staff would discuss the information on the EIDO leaflet with the Women during the consultation at the antenatal clinic and provide opportunity for women to ask questions at any subsequent clinic appointments

Q3 Please confirm whether medical staff (including doctors, nurses and midwives) have targets or measured in any other way in terms of the number of caesareans carried out at the hospitals.

A3 Confirmed, the rates for our elective and emergency caesarean sections are shared on our maternity dashboard

Our rates are further broken down by category of caesarean section

- Category I. Immediate threat to life of the woman or foetus.
- Category II. Maternal or foetal compromise which is not immediately life threatening
- Category III. No maternal or foetal compromise, but needs early delivery
- Category IV. Delivery timed to suit the woman or staff

Q4 If there are targets or performance measurement, what are these please and what have the figures been for the last three years?

A4 See below

- 2019 Percentage of Elective Caesarean Section Births
- 2019 Percentage of Emergency Caesarean Section Births
- 2018 Percentage of Elective Caesarean Section Births
- 2018 Percentage of Emergency Caesarean Section Births
- 2017 Percentage of Elective Caesarean Section Births
- 2017 Percentage of Emergency Caesarean Section Births

*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.

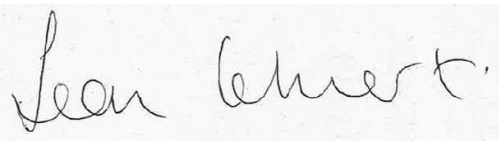
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager