

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-218

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

Date: 19th October 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 8th September 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Multiple Births

On 14th September 2020 we contacted you via email asking for the following clarification:

Q2 = please clarify what you mean by number of foetus delivered? Are you referring to the number of babies still born / NND where there is a surviving sibling?

Q5/6 what age are you considering Neonate?

In addition, please clarify if you want all multiples regardless of gestational age including in the information request for NNU admissions?

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

“Q2 = please clarify what you mean by number of foetus delivered? Are you referring to the number of babies still born / NND where there is a surviving sibling?”

All foetus delivered as a result of a multiple pregnancy, which would include stillborn, live births and neonatal deaths. It would exclude early or late miscarriage (before 24 weeks gestation).

Q5/6 what age are you considering Neonate?

The definitions to follow are the same as routinely collected as part of the MBRRACE-UK audit <https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/assets/downloads/mbrance-uk/reports/MBRRACE-UK%20Perinatal%20Mortality%20Surveillance%20Report%20for%20Births%20in%202017%20-%20FINAL%20Revised.pdf>

Stillbirth

A baby delivered at or after 24+0 weeks gestational age showing no signs of life, irrespective of when the death occurred.

Neonatal death

A liveborn baby (born at 20+0 weeks gestational age or later, or with a birthweight of 400g or more where an accurate estimate of gestation is not available), who died before 28 completed days after birth.

In addition, please clarify if you want all multiples regardless of gestational age including in the information request for NNU admissions?

Yes all multiples regardless of gestational age admitted to any level of neonatal care (not transitional care) please”

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 Please confirm if current antenatal care for multiple pregnancies (in 2020 and going forward) is delivered in, each unit, by a "a core team of named specialist obstetricians, specialist midwives and sonographers, all of whom have experience and knowledge of managing twin and triplet pregnancies" in accordance with NICE guideline NG137.

Where possible, could I please request the names, telephone numbers (direct dial), and email address' for the following positions in the unit;

- Specialist multiple pregnancy obstetricians
- Specialist multiple pregnancy midwives
- Specialist multiple pregnancy sonographers

A1 Please see below:

Specialist multiple pregnancy obstetricians

Mr Simon Cunningham (Secretary 01782 715444) simon.cunningham@uhnms.nhs.uk

Specialist multiple pregnancy midwives

- Anna O'Rourke Anna.O'rourke@uhnms.nhs.uk
- Abigail Brocklehurst Abigail.brocklehurst@uhnms.nhs.uk

Tel - 01782 715444

Specialist multiple pregnancy sonographers

Mr Simon Cunningham (Secretary 01782 715444) simon.cunningham@uhnms.nhs.uk

Q2 Please may I also request the following data for the unit for the year 2017, 2018 and 2019?

- Number of Multiple Birth Pregnancies (e.g. twins, triplets, quads +)
- Number of Foetuses delivered from a Multiple Birth
- Multiple Birth Still Births (number of babies)
- Multiple Birth pregnancies resulting in an Emergency C-Sections
- Multiple Birth Neonatal Deaths (number of babies)
- Multiple Birth Neonatal Admissions (number of babies admitted to a neonatal unit for their care)

A2 We are unable to provide some of the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5.

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed. Please see below:

	2017	2018	2019
1. - Number of Multiple Birth Pregnancies (e.g. twins, triplets, quads +)	0	0	106
2. - Number of Foetuses delivered from a Multiple Birth	179	209	178
3. - Multiple Birth Still Births (number of babies)	<5	<5	<5
4. - Multiple Birth pregnancies resulting in an Emergency C-	34	36	34

Sections			
5. - Multiple Birth Neonatal Deaths (number of babies)	<5	8	6
6. - Multiple Birth Neonatal Admissions (number of babies admitted to a neonatal unit for their care)	86	116	93

Notes:

- 1 = we are unable to obtain 'booking' information/ Pregnancy volume prior to 2018 due to implementation of new system and data not fully represented
- 1 = Patients may have booked at UHNM and subsequently moved out of area / birthed elsewhere, equally we may have mothers who birthed here who didn't book with us. Therefore the information is NOT an accurate indicator of 'losses'
- 1 = Based on pregnant mother volume, not expected babies
- 2 = <24 week deliveries have been excluded (unless born live), other Still births have been included
- 2 & 3 = There are occasions where pregnancy started as multiple and sadly one died in-utero so imbalance in numbers to be expected (patient notes to confirm= section 12 exemption: **cost of compliance excessive**)
- 2 & 3 = Some occasions where mothers gave birth to twins <=24 weeks and only one was live, prior to K2 system the second baby would not have been recorded, in terms of still birth volume requestor stated >=24 week so therefore the 'second' foetus in this example would not be counted for 2018/19 either
- 4 = Based on pregnancies indicated with >1 foetus who subsequently had a Cat1 or Cat2 emergency delivery
- 5 = Neonatal deaths may not be fully represented as limited access to data once baby discharged from Maternity. Have linked to our main patient database to obtain details of babies who've died since (live) birth (0-28 days)
- 6 = Neonatal admissions looked for live births where baby admitted to our NICU unit within 0-7 days of delivery. Irrespective of length of stay

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Q3 **We're keen to ensure as many healthcare professionals are aware of the services that the charity offers therefore please confirm:**

If the specialist team members have undertaken CPD sessions on multiple pregnancy like these <https://twinstrust.org/healthcare-professionals/webinars.html> in the past three years? Or if not, would they like to be notified of online sessions coming up?

A3 The specialist multiple pregnancy midwives are aware of Continual Professional Development (CPD) via twins Trust and intend to undertake this.

The Specialist multiple pregnancy obstetrician has undertaken CPD via twins Trust, Royal college obstetricians and gynaecologists and International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and distributed the twins Trust CPD

Q4 **If the team routinely recommends Twins Trust's (formerly Tamba) antenatal classes, preparing for parenthood and breastfeeding webinars, pregnancy and parenting guides and support services like these <https://twinstrust.org/let-us-help/pregnancy-and-birth.html> to your expectant multiple birth families?**

A4 The FOI Act 2000 is for the release of information that is held/recorded and does not cover the opinions of persons regarding suppliers, systems or procedures, therefore this information is not held.

- Q5 If the team are interested in being supported by our Maternity Engagement Quality Improvement Project (T-MEP) to improve care and reduce poor outcomes like stillbirths, neonatal deaths, neonatal admissions and emergency caesarean sections like this <https://twinstrust.org/who-we-are/what-we-do/maternity-engagement.html>
- A5 The FOI Act 2000 is for the release of information that is held/recorded and does not cover the opinions of persons regarding suppliers, systems or procedures, therefore this information is not held.

*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,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager

