



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-276

Date: 28th October 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 8th October 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding maternity policy.

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 I would like to request copies of the following policies/guidance relating to both the Royal Stoke University Hospital and Stafford County Hospital.

- **Surrogacy Policy**
- **Home birth policy**
- **Exemptions to COVID-related restrictions on the grounds of disability i.e. a disabled birthing partner who may need support themselves during the labour process**

A1 Please see attached, note that this guidance is currently being reviewed and updated as required.

We are currently waiting for a surrogacy guideline from Staffordshire Children services however due to the pandemic; this has been delayed going through process. We do have and have supported many surrogate pregnancies.

There are no specific exemptions for disability as we would review any individual request or requirement. Women have been able to have a birth partner in established labour as per national guidance. This has recently changed to any stage of labour.

*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.

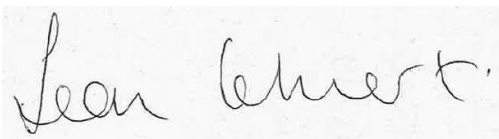
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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