

Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-575

Date: ** ***** 2021

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Commented [c1]: Only add at final draft

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 30th November 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding maternity.

On 4th December 2023 we contacted you via email as to continue with your request we clarification on what you mean by 'shortly'? - Q2- e.g. 7 Days following birth?

On 9th January 2024 you replied via email with:

'Within 3 months'

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 may I request: how many women died, in childbirth, at Stoke UHNM or Stafford (County) Hospital, between and including November 2007 – November 2023?

A1 Data 2015-2023 = During this time frame 13 maternal deaths were reported none of these women died in childbirth. Information prior to 2015 not held.

**Q2 Please may I request: how many babies died, in or shortly after childbirth, at Stoke UHNM or Stafford (County) Hospital between and including November 2007 to November 2023?
(Including a list of reasons as qualitative data)**

A2 We are unable to provide 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.

Figures from the MBRACCE For UHNM site as below.

Early neonatal death are categorised as 0-7 days. Late neonatal deaths are categorised as 7-28 days. Information on the MBRACCE search for UHNM neonatal figures is only available from 2019. MBRACCE site does not report NND after 28 days of age.

A UHNM Datix search of all reported neonatal deaths is only available from 2019. The Datix coding for neonatal deaths has only been in operation since 2019. The Datix incident search would not generally include the cause of death or necessarily the age at which the baby died. Some babies may have died at another NHS trust but could have received care at UHNM at some point or delivered at another trust and been brought to UHNM for neonatal care only.

2019 early NND 12 late NND <5
2020 early NND 20 late NND 13
2021 early NND 31 Late NND 22
2022 early NND 23 Late NND 21
2023 early NND late NND 16

The cause of deaths as recorded on the MBRACCE site are as follows.

12 deaths related to infection.
70 related to extreme prematurity
16 related to cardiac / respiratory concerns.
13 related to Known congenital. Abnormality
<5 death Fetal non specific.

Q3 Please may I request: how many mothers, in Stafford and Surrounds, died, en route, to deliver their baby at hospital between and including November 2007 – November 2023?

A3 From 2015 -during this time frame 13 maternal deaths were reported, none of these women died en route to hospital to deliver their babies

Q4 Please may I ask: how many mothers from Stafford and Surrounds have delivered their babies in a car, or at the roadside between November 2007 to November 2023?

If possible, please may I have the information as a bar graph but also in the form of Qualitative data with an explanation of the causes of the deaths.

A4 192 born before arrival cases were reported after 2015.
We are unable to provide the information on where the babies were actually born as this is not usually recorded in the information provided in the Datix report, some cases for instance will be free births where the women choose to deliver outside of hospital premises.

Q5 In addition,

- **Please can I have a written timeline of the changes of the maternity services please.**
- **This should include both Stafford and Stoke maternity, between the period November 2007 and November 2023.**

A5 Not all the information you have requested is held, however we can provide the following:

- 2007 - maternity services moved from the old infirmary site to the new building located on Newcastle Road. All services remained the same.

- 2014 - maternity services merged with those provided previously at Stafford Hospital, becoming a two site service, with the newly named County Hospital providing antenatal, low risk intrapartum and postnatal care.
- 2019 - service change proposals submitted by commissioners proposing the removal of low risk intrapartum birthing option at County Hospital due to low birthing numbers
- 2020 - intrapartum care at County Hospital suspended with all other antenatal and postnatal care continuing. All services at RSUH site remained the same.
- 2024 - status remains as above (bullet point 4).

*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.uhn.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,





University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

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