



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-298

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

Date 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Email [foi@uhm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhm.nhs.uk)

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 5th August 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding maternity services

On 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 we contacted you via email with the following:

Please confirm the timeframe and are you expecting 'volumes' or a % of overall activity? – what time period?

On 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024 you replied via email with:

*'I would like a percentage for the latest monthly figures for 2024 if possible.'*

**Q1 Please could you tell me how many consultants are onsite at all maternity departments within the Trust during the following times (if there is more than one maternity department within the Trust, please provide figures for each maternity department)**

- a) Midday (12pm) on weekdays
- b) Midnight (12am) on weekdays
- c) Midday (12pm) on Sundays
- d) Midnight (12am) on Sundays

A1 Note this information includes all areas within the Maternity Department at Stoke and County. This would be an approximate number as rota's vary from week to week and no specific day has been mentioned.

- a) Midday (12pm) on weekdays  
Antenatal clinic (Stoke) – 1 consultant per day  
Antenatal Clinic (County) – 2 consultants per week (2 clinics per week)  
Maternity Assessment Unit – 2-3 consultant per week  
Delivery Suite – 1 consultant per day  
Caesarean Section List - 1 consultant per day
- b) Midnight (12am) on weekdays  
No consultant on-site but are on-call from home.
- c) Midday (12pm) on Sundays  
1 consultant on Delivery Suite per week
- d) Midnight (12am) on Sundays  
No consultant on-site but are on-call from home.

**Q2 Please provide figures for your current a) emergency caesarean rate a) elective caesarean rate.**

A2 For July:  
Emergency Caesarean rate: 24.48%  
Elective Caesarean rate: 20.53%

**Q3 Please could you tell me if there are any targets or policies in place to address the existing a) emergency caesarean rate b) elective caesarean rate if either are deemed outliers compared to other trusts.**

A3 There are no targets or policies in place to address a) emergency caesarean rate b) elective caesarean rate. We are not aware that either are deemed outliers compared to other Trusts.

**Q4 Please provide details of your current policy on maternal request caesareans.**

A4 UHNM ASQUAM Guideline for Caesarean birth is currently under review and is being updated to reflect NICE Caesarean Birth Guidance (NG192). (Maternal Choice update August 2023). The guideline that we currently have in use at UHNM does include maternal requests for caesarean birth. It is not routinely offered as a birth choice, however if the woman requests it as an option with no underlying medical/obstetric reasons for needing a caesarean birth. A discussion will take place around the reasons why, appropriate information and support will be given which will also include the benefits and risks of a caesarean birth. If the reason for the request is Tokophobia a referral can be made to Perinatal Mental Health Service and a Professional Midwifery Advocate to provide any support the woman may require. Once the woman has received all the required information a caesarean section will be arranged at her request. (Caesarean sections are only performed at RSUH. However, consultant clinics where decisions for caesarean sections are made to take place at County hospital.)

\*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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records