



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

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Date: 8th January 2019

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Dear

I am writing in response to your Email on 23rd December 2018 (received into our office 24th December 2018) regarding our second amended response to your FOI on maternity policies/procedures.

You emailed the following:

"Thank you for your reply with the attached documentation.

In response to the first question I sent regarding accessing all the maternity policies and procedures, I was sent one policy on Infant Feeding. Are we to assume that Policy No. C45 (Trust Policy and Guidelines for Infant Feeding) is the only policy prescribed for the maternity unit? Following my response to this (21/12/18), you then forwarded a further 5 policies. Why did I not receive these in the first instance?

The policies and procedures thus far appear to be Trust policies, but not necessarily specific to the maternity unit. Am I to assume from this that there are no such policies and procedures specific to the maternity unit? Is this in line with CQC recommended criteria? If the maternity unit does simply follow guidelines, there must be specific practice that the maternity unit is duty bound to follow. The staff within the maternity unit will have a duty of care. Where is the policy relating to this for example? If the maternity unit just follow guidelines instead of having specific policies and procedures, then please could we have a copy of these?

In relation to the information provided on the 2025 vision, although what you propose is admirable it does not provide me with information as to the current practice and procedures for the maternity unit. What are they working towards this year? I find this incredulous that the maternity department or any department within the Hospital Trust does not appear to have its own strategic objective to be working towards. Is this the practice with all NHS Trusts or only with UHNMS?"

Our response:

We have conducted a review of our responses, and can confirm that after we responded on 19th December 2018 we conducted an amended secondary search and a further review of all the clarifications that you supplied to in response to our queries, we then supplied the remaining policies pertaining to maternity (Maternity Risk management and incident complaints and claims - please refer to RM01 and RM07) we apologise for this oversight; please note that there are over 200 guidelines and standard operating procedures for obstetrics and gynaecology.



Clinical guidelines set out a pathway of care which is evidence based, however there is some latitude for clinical decision making as guidelines cannot cover every single situation. Maternity is part of the wider organisation and staff are obliged to follow policy as employees of the Trust. We have sent policies that are specific to maternity as requested.

On 10th December 2018 we contacted you via email for clarification as to whether you meant guidelines, you responded by email with the following:

"We require all maternity policies and procedures not guidelines. Do you mean by guidelines general NHS documents that the maternity unit should be following?"

We require any/and all statistics on Stillbirths that have happened at the hospital for the past 5 years"

All maternity guidelines adhered to Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) standards when they were in place. We achieved the highest score possible when we were assessed in 2014. All our guidelines follow national recommendations from NICE and various relevant Royal colleges and reflect evidence based practice. All staff employed in the NHS have a professional and personal duty of care to people that they serve in accordance with the Nursing Midwifery Council or General Medical Council for example.

Guidelines were not supplied as you confirmed above that they were not required.

In relation to the current practice and procedures for the maternity unit at UHNM, the 2025 vision is Trust wide and we do not have any specific maternity strategy. We are working towards the recommendations of the following publications: please note that we are unable to comment for other NHS Trusts.

DOH 2016

Safer maternity care:
Next steps towards the national maternity ambition

NHS ENGLAND 2016

BETTER BIRTHS
Improving outcomes of maternity services in England

NHS ENGLAND 2016

Saving babies lives:
A care bundle for reducing stillbirths

RCOG EACH BABY COUNTS

2017 Full report
2018 EBC Themed report on anaesthetic care
2018 EBC update

MBRRACE-UK 2018

1. Saving Lives, Improving Mothers' Care 2014-2016
2. Perinatal Mortality Surveillance report for births in 2016

This letter confirms the completion of this request for an internal review. A log of this review and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any further queries related to the response provided please contact my office in the first instance.

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 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance