



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-410

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

Date: 30th October 2024

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in response to your email dated 23rd September 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Previous C-Section and Birthing Pool Use.

Q1 Number of Women Using a Birthing Pool/Water Immersion Following a Previous Caesarean Section:

Please provide the number of women who had a previous caesarean section and used a birthing pool or water immersion during a subsequent labour and/or birth in your Trust for each of the following time periods:

- 01 January 2013 – 31 December 2013**
- 01 January 2014 – 31 December 2014**
- 01 January 2015 – 31 December 2015**
- 01 January 2016 – 31 December 2016**
- 01 January 2017 – 31 December 2017**
- 01 January 2018 – 31 December 2018**
- 01 January 2019 – 31 December 2019**
- 01 January 2020 – 31 December 2020**
- 01 January 2021 – 31 December 2021**
- 01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022**
- 01 January 2023 – 31 December 2023**

- A1 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.
Partial information held – K2 system implemented and records from Mid-2017. No data available before then.

01 January 2017 – 31 December 2017 – 0
01 January 2018 – 31 December 2018 - <5
01 January 2019 – 31 December 2019 - <5

01 January 2020 – 31 December 2020 - 0
01 January 2021 – 31 December 2021 - <5
01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022 - <5
01 January 2023 – 31 December 2023 - <5

Q2 Clinical Guidelines:

Please provide copies of any current maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols specifically relating to:

The use of water immersion or birthing pools during labour and/or birth.

A2 See attached Care of Healthy Women in Labour guideline- (Care of the Healthy Woman in Labour has been reviewed, updated and ratified recently. It will be launched in the very near future following implementation of a change of practise within the clinical area, therefore, this is not yet available as it is not a 'live' guideline)

Note for all attached guidelines:

These are the most recent we have that we are able to share, all are due for review.

Q3 Vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC).

A3 See attached Vaginal Birth after Caesarean Section

Q4 Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about water immersion/birthing pools during labour and/or birth.

A4 See attached Care of Healthy Women in Labour guideline

Q5 Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about vaginal birth after caesarean section.

A5 See attached VBAC patient information leaflet

*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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records