

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-773

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 8th April 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 25th March 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding maternity services.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in questions 1 (e) (f) and 2 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual death/health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all death/health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all death/health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

On 1st April 2019 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on your definition of "infant/neonatal/post neonatal death", your definition of "serious harm", and your definition of "serious harm"?

On the same day you replied via email the following:

Q1

- a. Total number – **Deaths before the age one.**
- b. Stillbirths
- c. Neonatal – **Between birth and three months.**
- d. Postneonatal - **Between three months and one year**
- e. Babies who suffered serious harm during birth – **All babies who suffered serious harm during birth. By serious harm I mean any unexpected or unintended incident ranging from an increase in treatment, possible surgical intervention, cancelling of treatment, or transfer to another area, and which caused significant but not permanent harm, to death**
- f. Causes of death –.
- g. Breakdown of points a–f by infant's ethnicity –

Q3:- Clarification Required

- 3. Maternal deaths**
a. Total number - **Mothers who died in childbirth**
b. Breakdown by ethnicity

On 2nd April 2019 we contacted you via email as we required further clarification, on what are classing as maternity services? Is this just the midwife birth unit?

On 4th April 2019 you replied via email the following:
“Yes, that's right. I'd appreciate data from the midwife birth unit.”

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 Could you please help me find the most recent statistics relating to infant deaths? I am looking for data since 2000 and onwards on the following, in excel format please.

- 1. Infant deaths**
- Total number
 - Stillbirths
 - Neonatal
 - Postneonatal
 - Babies who suffered serious harm during birth
 - Causes of death
 - Breakdown of point's a–f by infant's ethnicity

A1 Please see below for points 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d and 1g. Points 1e and 1f = information exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act as detailed above.
Please note data is not held prior to April 2011. Information provided is as per your clarification above.

Ethnicity	Patient Died		Patient Died Total	Still Birth		Still Birth Total	Grand Total
	0-3	3-12		0-3	3-12		
African	6		6	3		3	9
Any Other Asian Background	2	3	5	3		3	8
Any Other Black Background	2		2				2
Any other ethnic group	3		3	2		2	5
Any Other Mixed Background	7		7	2		2	9
Any other White background	10		10	7		7	17
Bangladeshi	5		5	1		1	6
Indian	6		6	1		1	7
Not Specified	9	1	10	4		4	14
Not Stated	4	1	5	12		12	17

Pakistani	20	5	25	13		13	38
Unknown	2	3	5				5
White & Asian	4	1	5	2		2	7
White & Black Caribbean	4		4	2		2	6
White British	224	26	250	111	1	112	362
White Irish	1		1				1
Grand Total	309	40	349	163	1	164	513

Q2 Serious untoward incidents (SUI) in maternity services

- a. Total number
- b. How many led to death
- c. How many led to a civil action being instigated
- d. Breakdown of SUIs by infant's and mother's ethnicity
- e. Breakdown of SUI cases that led to death by infants and mother's ethnicity

A2 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

Q3 Maternal deaths

- a. Total number
- b. Breakdown by ethnicity

A3 None, as per your clarification above

Q4 Staff working in maternity services

- a. Total medical staff
- b. Total non-medical staff
- c. Breakdown by ethnicity

A4 Please see attached; note the following:

- The current staff record system was implemented from May 2007. We do not hold the data prior to this date
- Medical Staff may work on both Obstetrics and Gynaecology – the data provided is the number of medical staff (full time equivalent). We do not hold the split of their time between these two specialties
- The numbers are the full time equivalent as at 31st March of each year.
- The numbers are “staff in post” at 31st March of each year (full time equivalent), not budgeted establishment and as such, do not indicate vacant posts which may be covered by Bank or Agency staff
- The numbers do not include Bank and Agency workers
- The structure provided is as per the hierarchy in the Electronic Staff Record system, which may or may not align with the respondents view of “maternity services”

*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 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance