

FOI 2916

14th March 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting data regarding breastfeeding rates within the Southern HSC Trust over the last three years (2022, 2023, and 2024).

Details requested:

For the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 please provide,

- **The percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at birth.**
- **The percentage of babies partially breastfed (mixed feeding) at birth.**
- **The percentage of babies not breastfed at all at birth.**

Response:

Please see attachment 1.

For the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, please provide,

- **The percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at their 6-8 week health check.**
- **The percentage of babies partially breastfed at their 6-8 week health check.**
- **The percentage of babies not breastfed at their 6-8 week health check.**

Response:

Please see attachment 2.

Can you provide the above data broken down by local council area or postcode region for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024?

Response:

Please see attachment 1 & attachment 2.

Can you provide the above data broken down by maternal age group (e.g. under 20, 20-29, 30-39, 40+) for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024?

Response:

Please see attachment 1

How many lactation consultants or breastfeeding support staff were employed by

your Trust in 2022, 2023, and 2024?

Response:

Within Maternity Services, there has been no Lactation Consultants employed by the SHSCT in 2022, 2023 and 2024. In 2023, the SHSCT implemented the role of two Band 6 Infant Feeding Midwives (x1 for CAH and x1 for DHH) 15 hours per week. All Midwives and Maternity Support workers are trained in relation to UNICEF UK BFI Successful Breastfeeding and Relationship Building and there are currently 29 trained Breastfeeding Peer Volunteers with next training due to commence in September 2025.

Within Neonatal Service we have a Breastfeeding Lead for Neonatal Service (0.3wte) who covers the Neonatal Unit (CAH) and the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU). There are no Lactation Consultants employed in the Neonatal service. All staff working in the Neonatal Service are trained in Successful Breastfeeding and Relationship Building.

The Public Health Nursing Service has a Community Infant Feeding Lead (0.8wte) who is a qualified Lactation Consultant. There are 29 peer support volunteers currently trained within the Trust. Recruitment for next cohort of recruitment and training to take place September 2025. All health visitors and health visiting assistants are trained in relation to Successful Breastfeeding and Relationship Building and supporting mother to breast feed.

Can you provide any internal reports or surveys the Trust has conducted on why mothers stop breastfeeding?

Response:

Within Maternity Services, Neonatal Services and Public Health Nursing Services there have been no internal reports or surveys carried out to try to understand why mothers stop breastfeeding.

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