

FOI 3067

13th May 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question:

Survey of perineal tears and obstetric practice in the UK

We would appreciate if you would kindly complete this short but important survey. This information would help us to establish accurate prevalence data and establish the current national practice regarding follow-up of third- and fourth-degree tears between 31st December 2023- 1st January 2025 and correlate data with the maternity dashboard.

Name of Hospital / Unit	Southern Health and Social care Trust Craigavon / Daisy Hill hospital			
Address	68 Lurgan road, Portadown, Craigavon. BT63 5QQ 5 Hospital Road Newry, BT35 8DR			
	Total	Primiparous	Multiparous	Don't Know
All Births	4550			*See response below
Vaginal deliveries	2011 + 11 breech vaginal births			*See response below
Forceps deliveries	278			*See response below
Ventouse deliveries	291			*See response below
Failed ventouse → Forceps deliveries	*See response below			*See response below
Caesarean Section	1959			*See response below
Elective caesarean section	1198			*See response below
Emergency caesarean Section	761			*See response below

Second degree tears				*See response below
Sutured second degree tears				*See response below
Episiotomies				*See response below
Third degree tears	59 (classified as 3 rd /4 th degree tears)			- Information recorded as 3 rd or 4 th degree tear
3a				*See response below
3b				*See response below
3c				*See response below
Fourth degree tears				*See response below
Rectal buttonhole tear				This information is not recorded.
Type of Hospital/Unit? (please X or ✓)	Free-standing Midwifery Unit	Alongside Midwifery Unit ✓	Obstetrician Led Labour Ward ✓	State Other: Birth at home
How are third- and fourth-degree tears classified for data collection? (please X or ✓)				
3 rd degree tears	3 rd & 4 th degree tears separately – recorded as 3 rd /4 th degree tear but not separately.	Grade 3a, 3b, 3c, 4 th degree	Don't know	
Do you have a designated perineal clinic		No		
If yes, is it (please X or ✓)	Midwifery led	Obstetrician led	State Other:	

Please kindly provide names of perineal clinic leads and designation Name: Contact Address Email:	N/A			
If No, how are women with 3 rd & 4 th degree tears followed up? (please X or ✓)				
Community midwives	GP	Hospital antenatal clinic	Others – Please state Women are reviewed at gynae clinics but unable to identify number	
Do you have a designated women's health physiotherapist? (please X or ✓)				
If yes, how many?	Yes – this is a service that is offered by a team of physiotherapists who rotate through physiotherapy department.			
If yes, when do they follow up women with 3 rd & 4 th degree tears				
Antenatal	Postnatal ✓ - following discharge	Ward prior to discharge	Other- Please state	
What maternity data system is used in your unit? (please X or ✓)				
Epic ✓ From 8 th May 2025	Terranova	Euro king	Cerner	Other: (NIMATS) Northern Ireland Maternity System used until 7 th May 2025.
Any further comments:				

* This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of individual patient records. We are unable to provide a breakdown to differentiate classification of tear and parity. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information from a number of individual patient records would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.

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