

FOI 3239

19th August 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

How many vacancies do you currently have for a) midwives; b) obstetricians? (And how many members of staff do you currently have in both those roles?)

Response:

Please see attached document for response (Attachment 1).

What is the number of stillbirths and neonatal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years? And what was the recorded ethnicity of those who died, if the data is available?

Response:

Nationality of mother is recorded on the birth notification rather than ethnicity. MBRRACE collect data on ethnicity but all reports have ethnicity of all births and not broken down to stillbirths/neonatal deaths.

Nationality has only been recorded since the introduction of PMRT therefore not available prior to 2022 without undertaking a manual trawl which would necessitate more than 18 hours and outside the remit for FOI. Information prior to 2022 was not recorded centrally. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving this 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.

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal Deaths	Nationality of Mother (Other than British/Irish)
2016	11	20	<5 Canadian <5 Polish <5 Slovakian
2017	22	14	<5 Polish
2018	23	19	<5 Lithuanian
2019	12	16	<5 German <5 Polish <5 Lithuanian <5 Bulgarian

			<5 Latvian
2020	22	14	<5 East Timor-Leste <5 Bulgarian <5 Romanian
2021	22	11	None
2022	19	9	<5 Thai <5 East Timorese <5 Ukrainian <5 Lithuanian <5 Greek
2023	12	5	<5 East Timorese <5 Guatemalan
2024	11	7	<5 Czech <5 East Timorese
2025	1	3	None

** The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality, in line with this duty the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.

How many live births were recorded at your trust/board in each of the past 10 years?

Response:

Data below demonstrates the total amount of live births recorded within the Southern Trust within the past 10 years

2016	4,536
2017	5,861
2018	5,663
2019	5,621
2020	5,197
2021	5,343
2022	5,011
2023	4,810
2024	4,550
2025	1,537 to date

What is the number of maternal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years? And what was the recorded ethnicity of those who died?

Response:

This information is not readily available without undertaking a manual trawl therefore unable to provide this information. This information is held centrally by the PHA and could be obtained through a formal FOI requesting this specific information.

How many medical negligence suits have arisen from incidents in your maternity department in each of the past 10 years?

Response:

Claims opened during years:

25.7.2015 – 24.7.2016: **11**
25.7.2016 – 24.7.2017: **27**
25.7.2017 – 24.7.2018: **25**
25.7.2018 – 24.7.2019: **18**
25.7.2019 – 24.7.2020: **27**
25.7.2020 – 24.7.2021: **11**
25.7.2021 – 24.7.2022: **6**
25.7.2022 – 24.7.2023: **14**
25.7.2023 – 24.7.2024: **15**
25.7.2024 – 25.7.2025: **9**

How many resulted in a payment being made, and how much was paid out in each of the past 10 years?

Response:

25.7.2015 – 24.7.2016: **Nil**
25.7.2016 – 24.7.2017: **Nil**
25.7.2017 – 24.7.2018: **£75,000**
25.7.2018 – 24.7.2019: **£137,500**
25.7.2019 – 24.7.2020: **£47,000**
25.7.2020 – 24.7.2021: **£6,000**
25.7.2021 – 24.7.2022: **£102,000**
25.7.2022 – 24.7.2023: **£271,560**
25.7.2023 – 24.7.2024: **£882,933**
25.7.2024 – 25.7.2025: **£290,000**

How many third- and fourth-degree tears have you recorded for each of the past 10 years?

Response:

Data below demonstrates the total amount of third-and forth degree tears recorded within the Southern Trust

2016	89
2017	81
2018	63
2019	75
2020	79
2021	71
2022	76
2023	68
2024	59
2025 to date	19

What are your current rates of forceps use, if you keep data on this?

Response:

The information for below two questions has been obtained from Business Objects Report, however this is no longer able to be captured in the same format and is only recorded as instrumental birth not forceps/ventouse.

2016	409	
2017	423	
2018	339	
2019	306	
2020	275	
2021	325	
2022	275	
2023	263	
2024	273	
2025	96 up until encompass go live 8 th May 2025	

What are your current rates of ventouse assisted deliveries, if you keep data on this?

Response:

2016	282
2017	241
2018	265
2019	292
2020	262
2021	257
2022	283

2023	334
2024	291
2025	84 up until encompass go live on 8 th May

How many emergency caesarean sections have you carried out in each of the past 10 years?

Response:

2016	622
2017	800
2018	806
2019	896
2020	764
2021	847
2022	898
2023	770
2024	747
2025	254 to date

How many Maternal Request Caesareans were made to staff in each of the past 10 years, and how many were approved?

Response:

This information is not held.

How much did your trust/board pay for use of interpreters in its maternity department in each of the past 10 years?

Response:

This information is not held at service level within the Trust.

How many people have received treatment as part of any MMHS (Maternal Mental Health Service) in the past year?

Response:

60 women have received treatment within the MMHS.

How many people are on the waiting list to receive treatment from the MMHS right now? And how long is the average waiting time for treatment?

Response:

As of 5th August 2025 there are no patients on a waiting list to receive treatment.

As per the Perinatal Care Pathway, referrals are triaged each week. Patients are offered an initial appointment for an assessment within 4 weeks for routine and 10 working days for urgent.

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