

FOI 3318

1st October 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Please Provide:

- **The number of miscarried babies that were reported as discarded, lost, or contaminated within Southern Health and Social Care Trust for the past five years.**
- **A breakdown of these incidents by year**
- **A breakdown of any costs due to these incidents**
- **A breakdown of hours spent by NHS workers either attempting to find or reporting or spending time on these incidents**

Response:

Following a review of our incident reporting system (DATIX), we can confirm that less than 5 incidents were recorded within the specified timeframe. The incidents occurred in 2024 and involved products of conception being lost or discarded.

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, 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 and the sensitivity of the information requested. 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.

We understand the importance of transparency and accountability in such matters. However, with regards to your request for a breakdown of associated costs and staff hours spent on locating, reporting, or managing these incidents, we regret to advise that

this is not data routinely captured within our systems. As such, we are unable to provide accurate or meaningful figures in response to those aspects of your request.

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.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide the information you have requested 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. It has been estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate and retrieve the requested information. To obtain this information would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

We remain committed to ensuring respectful and safe handling of all pregnancy-related losses and continuously review our processes to uphold the highest standards of care.

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