

FOI 3610

3rd March 2026**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

Question 1. Any data held by the Trust in each year since 1 January 2020 showing number or proportion (percentage) of early postnatal contacts (for example, from discharge to day 10 postpartum) delivered:

- as home visits, and
- as clinic- or hub-based appointments.

Response:

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust do not hold the information requested. Community postnatal contacts were not recorded on an electronic system during the period referenced, and therefore the Trust is unable to provide data on the number or proportion of home visits versus clinic - or hub-based appointments.

Question 2. Whether postnatal home visiting is currently considered the default model of care within your Trust. If not, please advise when this position changed.

Response:

Postnatal home visiting is currently considered the default model of care within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. Community midwives routinely undertake home-based postnatal assessments following discharge. The Trust has not changed this position during the period referenced.

Question 3. Whether women are routinely offered a choice between postnatal home visits and clinic-based appointments, and how this choice is communicated (for example, verbally, in writing, or through scheduled appointments).

Response:

Postnatal home visiting remains the default model of care within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. However, some community midwifery teams do offer clinic-based postnatal follow-up where this is clinically appropriate or where it aligns with the woman's preference.

Women may be offered a clinic appointment as an alternative to a home visit, and this is typically discussed and communicated verbally between the community midwife and the mother as part of routine postnatal care planning.

Question 4. Copies of any current policies, guidelines, protocols, or operational instructions relating to the provision of postnatal home visits versus clinic-based appointments.

Response:

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust follow the NICE Postnatal Care Guidelines in relation to the provision of postnatal services. The Trust does not hold any local policies, procedures, or operational instructions that relate specifically to the provision of postnatal home visits versus clinic-based postnatal appointments

Question 5. Whether an Equality Screening or Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken in relation to postnatal home visiting or clinic-based postnatal care since 1 January 2020. If so, please provide copies. If not, please confirm this.

Response:

Not applicable. The Southern Health and Social Care Trust has not undertaken an Equality Screening or an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) in relation to postnatal home visiting or clinic-based postnatal care since 1 January 2020.

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