

FOI 2397

26 July 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

1. From the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive, how many complaints have been made by patients to the trust regarding the birthing experience in the maternity unit? Can you please supply a breakdown of those figures year by year?

Response:

Year	No. of Complaints
2019	18
2020	22
2021	16
2022	21
2023	8

2. How many complaints over the same period have been upheld? Please can you supply an annual breakdown.

Response:

The Southern Trust does not categorise complaints as upheld or not upheld.

3. From the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive, how many complaints have been made by patients to the trust regarding the pre-natal care in the maternity unit? Can you please supply a breakdown of those figures year by year?

Response:

Year	No. of Complaints
2019	19
2020	6
2021	11
2022	20
2023	6

4. How many complaints over the same period have been upheld? Please can you supply an annual breakdown.

Response:

The Southern Trust does not categorise complaints as upheld or not upheld.

- 5. From the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive, how many complaints have been made by patients to the trust regarding the post-natal care in the maternity unit? Can you please supply a breakdown of those figures year by year?**

Response:

Year	No. of Complaints
2019	7
2020	<5
2021	6
2022	8
2023	7

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.

- 6. How many complaints over the same period have been upheld? Please can you supply an annual breakdown.**

Response:

The Southern Trust does not categorise complaints as upheld or not upheld.

- 7. From the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive, how many maternity staffing red flags have been raised? Can you please supply a breakdown of those figures year by year?**

Response:

This data is not centrally recorded. In order, to provide this information a significant manual trawl of records from several sources is required. 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, it 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.



**Southern Health
and Social Care Trust**

8. From the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive, what have been the total number of midwives employed permanently by the trust? Can you please supply a breakdown of those figures year by year?

Response:

Band	As at 31 March 2019		As at 31 March 2020		As at 31 March 2021		As at 31 March 2022		As at 31 March 2023	
	Head-count	WTE	Head count	WTE	Head-count	WTE	Head-count	WTE	Head-count	WTE
5	21	18.05	12	9.76	14	12.52	19	15.61	25	21.88
6	204	159.99	192	151.43	171	133.55	174	137.06	169	132.08
7	28	25.09	31	28.02	38	34.35	37	32.64	36	32.98
8A	3	3.00	4	4.00	4	4.00	5	5.00	6	6.00
8B									2	2.00
8C							1	1.00	1	1.00
Overall Total	256	206.13	239	193.21	227	184.42	236	191.30	238	194.94

9. From the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive, how much has been spent on agency midwives in the trust? Can you please supply a breakdown of those figures year by year?

Response:

Year	Agency Midwifery costs
2019/20	£210,499
2020/21	£883,398
2021/22	£303,809
2022/23	£282,297
2023/24	£0
Grand Total	£1,680,003

10. From the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive, how many Serious Adverse Incidents were recorded in your maternity unit (s)? Can you please supply a breakdown of those figures year by year?

Response:

Year	No. of SAIs reported to SPPG
2019	<5
2020	5
2021	14
2022	12
2023	<5

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11. From the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive, how many staff have been employed with the trust to deal with post-natal mental health? Can you please supply a breakdown of those figures year by year?

Response:

The perinatal mental health team only commenced in 2022

Band	As at 31 March 2022		As at 31 March 2023	
	Headcount	WTE	Headcount	WTE
4			1	1.00
7	1	1.00	7	6.96
8A	1	1.00	1	1.00
Overall Total	2	2.00	9	8.96

12. From the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive, how many patients have been offered mental health treatment by the trust following birth? Can you please supply a breakdown of those figures year by year?

Response:

This information is not centrally recorded and we consider that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. Section 12 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as the Southern Trust. This represents the cost of one or more person spending 18 hours or more in determining whether we hold the information locating retrieving and extracting the information.



13. From the years 2013 to 2023, what are the birth injury rates amongst mothers in your maternity unit? Please can you give a year by year breakdown?

Response:

We are providing this information as is held by the Southern Trust from 2017, previous years require a manual trail which would be greater than 18hrs and outside timeframe for FOI.

Defined birth injury as:

- Retained swabs
- 3rd tear
- Bladder injuries
- Uterine ruptures

Category	Year	Number
Retained swab	2017	0
	2018	0
	2019	<5
	2020	<5
	2021	<5
	2022	<5
	2023	0
Category	Year	Number
3 rd Tears	2017	6
	2018	11
	2019	19
	2020	12
	2021	33
	2022	49
	2023	52
Category	Year	Number
Bladder injuries	2017	0
	2018	<5
	2019	6
	2020	<5
	2021	<5
	2022	<5
	2023	5
Category	Year	Number
Uterine injuries	2017	0
	2018	<5
	2019	<5
	2020	<5
	2021	0
	2022	<5
	2023	<5

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14. From the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive, how many babies have died in labour and maternity wards and neo natal units. Can a breakdown of recorded causes of deaths be provided? Can an annual breakdown be provided?

Response:

Year	Antenatal Inpatient	Intrapartum	Neonatal
2019	0	0	<5
2020	<5	0	<5
2021	<5	0	<5
2022	<5	0	<5
2023	0	0	<5

Causes of Death:

- Chronic intrauterine ischaemia
- Placental abruption
- Feto maternal haemorrhage
- Renal failure
- Neonatal compromise due to intrapartum haemorrhage
- Prematurity
- Cardio respiratory arrest,
- Infection
- Uterine rupture,
- Retro placental haemorrhage
- Tetralogy of Fallot,
- HIE
- Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia
- Extreme Prematurity
- SUDI

These causes of death are listed in no particular order.

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15. From the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive, how many women have died in the maternity unit? Can a breakdown of the recorded causes of deaths be provided? Can an annual breakdown be provided?

Response:

<5

Please note:

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