

FOI 2688

1st November 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Please provide the number of women who had a previous caesarean section and used a birthing pool or water immersion during a subsequent labour and/or birth in your Health Board for each of the following time periods:

01 January 2013 – 31 December 2013
01 January 2014 – 31 December 2014
01 January 2015 – 31 December 2015
01 January 2016 – 31 December 2016
01 January 2017 – 31 December 2017
01 January 2018 - 31 December 2018
01 January 2019 - 31 December 2019
01 January 2020 - 31 December 2020
01 January 2021 - 31 December 2021
01 January 2022 - 31 December 2022

Response:

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. The information is not centrally held and 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.

Please provide copies of any current maternity/midwifery/obstetric guidelines, policies or protocols specifically relating to:
The use of water immersion or birthing pools during labour and/or birth.
Vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC).

Response:

There is no Trust Guidance in relation to the use of water immersion during labour and birth we follow NICE guidelines. The latest guideline is NICE (2023) NG235 "Intrapartum Care", with the section "Non-pharmacological pain-relieving strategies" relating to intrapartum water immersion. Our protocol for cleaning baths and birthing pools is attached. Please see below link: -

[Overview | Intrapartum care | Guidance | NICE](#)

Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about water immersion/birthing pools during labour and/or birth.

Response:

In relation to VBAC, we again have no SHSCT guideline, as we follow national guidance: NICE (2024) "Caesarean Birth" and RCOG (2015) GTG 45 "Birth After Previous Caesarean Birth". In NICE (2024) CG192, section 1.8 provides recommendations for "Pregnancy and Childbirth after Caesarean Birth" (see attachment).

Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about vaginal birth after c-section.

Response:

The SHSCT uses a guided discussion form with all women who are pregnant again following previous caesarean section, based on the RCOG 2015 guidance (see attachment).

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