

Freedom of Information Act Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

I'm a journalist from ITV News and under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

The number of babies (under 1 year old, including stillbirths if applicable) who died in your care between 1 January 2010 and the present day (or the most recent available year).

Please note that where numbers are fewer than five ($n < 5$), we have suppressed the data to protect patient confidentiality in accordance with Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and to follow best practice in statistical disclosure control

Year	Stillbirths	Early Neonatal Deaths	Late Neonatal Deaths
2016	18	<5	0
2017	15	<5	<5
2018	15	9	0
2019	10	6	0
2020	11	7	<5
2021	17	<5	<5
2022	21	<5	0
2023	16	5	0
2024	14	<5	0
2025	8	<5	0

Please note that the terminology stillbirth includes all intrauterine deaths from 22 weeks gestation

Of those deaths, how many cases involved an admission of failure to provide safe care or treatment by your Trust (whether through internal investigation, complaint outcomes, or legal claims)?

No admissions of failure recorded or care issues identified

For those cases where a failure was admitted: a. Please provide the recorded ethnicity of each baby (or mother, if the baby's ethnicity is not recorded). b. If possible, include any notes on contributing factors or root causes identified.

2025

No cases to present day

Where numbers are fewer than five, we have withheld the specific count in accordance with Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is to avoid the risk of individuals being identified, directly or indirectly, when combined with other available information. This approach follows best practice in statistical disclosure control.

Please note that data relating to legal claims made in connection with the baby deaths referenced in your request is not held in a readily accessible format.

Information about legal claims, including whether they involved an admission of failure, is not stored in a centralised or searchable system. Retrieving this data would require a manual review of individual case files, complaints, legal records, and investigation reports across several departments. This would exceed the appropriate cost limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which limits the time a public authority is required to spend on a request to 18 hours or £450 of staff time.

Additionally, we can confirm that for each year where claims were made in relation to baby deaths, the number of cases is fewer than five ($n < 5$). Due to the small numbers involved, even partial disclosure of claim details could risk identification of individuals when combined with other available information.

Therefore, in line with Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (protection of personal data), we are unable to disclose further detail regarding the claims, including any contributing factors or recorded ethnicity, where applicable.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to d.wraith@nhs.net.

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Our Ref: 270

April 2025

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>