

Freedom of Information Act Request

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

Survey of perineal tears and obstetric practice in the UK

We would appreciate if you would kindly complete this short but important survey. This information would help us to establish accurate prevalence data and establish the current national practice regarding follow-up of third- and fourth-degree tears between 31st December 2023- 1st January 2024 and correlate data with the maternity dashboard.

Name of Hospital / Unit	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital (DBTH)			
Address	Armthorpe Rd, Doncaster DN2 5 LT			
	Total	Primiparous	Multiparous	Don't Know
All Births	21	10	11	
Vaginal deliveries	13	*Number under 5 See below exemption	9	
Forceps deliveries	*Number under 5 See below exemption	*Number under 5 See below exemption	0	
Ventouse deliveries	*Number under 5 See below exemption	*Number under 5 See below exemption	*Number under 5 See below exemption	
Failed ventouse → Forceps deliveries	0			
Caesarean Section	8	6	*Number under 5 See below exemption	
Elective caesarean section	0			

Emergency caesarean Section	8	6	*Number under 5 See below exemption	
Second degree tears	6	*Number under 5 See below exemption	*Number under 5 See below exemption	
Sutured second degree tears	5	*Number under 5 See below exemption	*Number under 5 See below exemption	
Episiotomies	*Number under 5 See below exemption	*Number under 5 See below exemption	*Number under 5 See below exemption	
Third degree tears	0			
3a	0			
3b	0			
3c	0			
Fourth degree tears	0			
Rectal buttonhole tear	0			
Type of Hospital/Unit? (please X or ✓)	Free-standing Midwifery Unit	Alongside Midwifery Unit	Obstetrician Led Labour Ward X	State Other:
How are third- and fourth-degree tears classified for data collection? (please X or ✓)				

3 rd degree tears	3 rd & 4 th degree tears separately	Grade 3a, 3b, 3c, 4 th degree X	Don't know	
Do you have a designated perineal clinic	Yes	No		We have a 3 rd /4 th degree tear review clinic, which has a Obstetrician, midwife and physio in attendance but no dedicated perineal clinic
If yes, is it (please X or ✓)	Midwifery led	Obstetrician led	State Other:	
Please kindly provide names of perineal clinic leads and designation				
Name:	Ms U Nair, consultant			
Contact Address	Doncaster Hospital Armthorpe Rd Doncaster DN2 5LT			
Email:	u.nair@nhs.net			
If No, how are women with 3 rd & 4 th degree tears followed up? (please X or ✓)				
Community midwives	GP	Hospital antenatal clinic	Others – Please state In hospital gynaecological clinic. Clinics are held twice per month with 2 appointment in each gynaecological clinic.	

Do you have a designated women's health physiotherapist? (please X or ✓)				
If yes, how many?	4 Women's health Physiotherapist and 2 support works. However in 2023 there were only 3 Physiotherapist			
If yes, when do they follow up women with 3 rd & 4 th degree tears				
Antenatal	Postnatal X	Ward prior to discharge X	Other- Please state	We are currently in the process of implementing NHSE pelvic health specification. This will mean that during the antenatal period Community midwives will discuss Pelvic floor exercises at every antenatal appointment from 16 weeks. At 35 Weeks patients will be given information about perineal massage. Any patient who have any pelvic health related conditions can either self-refer or be referred to women's health Physiotherapy. These appointments are group or individualised sessions. Women experiencing issues up to 1

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				year after birth can also make use of this service without referral from the GP. We also have a Pelvic health midwife as a single point of contact for patients or professionals. Women who have sustained a 3 rd /4 th degree tear during birth are seen between 6-12 weeks after birth in a tear clinic. We are looking to expand these clinics in line with the NHS E specification.
What maternity data system is used in your unit? (please X or ✓)				
Epic	Terranova	Euro king	Cerner	Other: K2
Any further comments:				
Kindly provide the following details in case we need clarification.				
Your name:	Samantha Maloy Specialist Pelvic Health Midwife			
Contact details:	01302 648212			
Email address:	Samantha.maloy@nhs.net			

FOI Response – Small Number Suppression

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to disclose exact figures where the number of individuals is fewer than five ($n < 5$). This is because the disclosure of small numbers carries a potential risk of identifying individuals when combined with other available information.

Therefore, where applicable, figures have been represented as:

*Number under 5 – See below exemption

This decision is made under **Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**, which relates to the protection of personal data. Releasing this information could risk the identification of individuals and would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR.

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
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>