

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am requesting the following information for the period 01 January 2023 to present. Please provide the data broken down by calendar year and by hospital site within the Trust.

For each year and hospital site, please provide:

a) The total number of births.

2023 - Trust-4408 DRI – 2869 BDGH -1539
2024- Trust- 4313 DRI – 2849 BDGH -1464
2025- Trust- 4205 DRI – 2813 BDGH- 1392
2026 – Trust -523 DRI -353 BDGH -170

b) The total number of stillbirths.

2023- Trust 13 DRI -11 BDGH -#
2024 -Trust – 11 DRI- 7BDGH-#
2025-Trust – 12 DRI -10 BDGH- #
2026- JAN-13.02.2026 -Trust – # DRI -# BDGH -0

c) The total number of neonatal deaths (defined as deaths within 28 days of birth) occurring within the Trust's maternity services.

2023 -Trust- 6 DRI- 5 BDGH- #
2024-Trust- 5 DRI -3 BDGH- #
2025- Trust-9 DRI – 9 BDGH- 0

Where figures are fewer than five, these have been replaced with '#'. This is because disclosure of small numbers, particularly in combination with other information, could lead to the identification of individuals. This information is therefore withheld under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as it constitutes personal data and disclosure would be unfair and unlawful under UK GDPR.

d) Of those neonatal deaths, the number reported to the Coroner by the Trust.

e) For neonatal deaths not reported to the Coroner, the primary recorded cause of death.

Where small numbers could risk identification, I am content for causes of death to be grouped into high-level categories (for example: prematurity-related, congenital anomaly, cause not known, hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy, infection etc.).

The Trust does not hold this information in a centrally reportable format.

While the total number of neonatal deaths is recorded, whether an individual case was referred to the Coroner, and the associated primary recorded cause of death, is not captured in a single searchable

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dataset. Since the implementation of the Medical Examiner (ME) scrutiny process, referral to the Coroner is no longer automatic and decisions are made on a case-by-case basis following review.

To determine:

- Which neonatal deaths were referred to the Coroner; and
- The primary recorded cause of death for those not referred,

the Trust would be required to manually review each individual patient record for the period requested, including examination of clinical documentation, ME review notes and Coroner correspondence.

This would involve pulling and reviewing individual case records one by one in order to identify referral status and confirm the recorded cause of death. Given the timeframe requested and the number of cases involved, this exercise would exceed 18 staff hours, which is the statutory cost limit (£450) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Trust is therefore refusing parts (d) and (e) of this request under **Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**.

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/>

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