

Freedom of Information Act Request

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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding incidents, injuries, and adverse outcomes associated with home births within your Trust.

Please provide the following information for the past 5 financial years, or for as many years as your records allow:

For each financial year please state:

The total number of home births attended by Trust-employed midwives (including agency staff). Please also supply the total number of hospital births for comparison.

Year	Home	Hospital
2021	12	3050
2022	20	2933
2023	11	2863
2024	27	2807
2025	11	2824

All planned homebirths were attended by a trust employed midwife
No known freebirth
No known homebirth attended by independent/private midwife
No homebirth 'declined to attend' by trust

2. Adverse Incidents at Home Births

For each financial year, please provide the total number of incident reports logged in relation to **home births** attended by the Trust (including agency staff). If possible broken down by severity:

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No Harm	#	#	0	#	8
Low Harm	0	0	0	0	0
Moderate harm	0	0	#	0	0
Severe harm	0	0	0	0	0
Maternal Death	0	0	0	0	0
Neonatal death	0	0	0	0	0

In line with Trust policy on small number suppression, figures fewer than five have been replaced with "#".

(If your Trust uses Datix, Ulysses, or another incident reporting system, these categories may already align with your internal coding. If you categorise your incidences of harm differently, please replace these categories with your own explanations)

2b.

For the same period, please provide the number of incident report logs in relation to **hospital births** at the Trust. If possible broken down by severity:

*	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No Harm	1166	1095	1301	1427	1348
Low harm	204	190	230	244	247
Moderate	9	38	76	146	128
Severe	#	5	0	#	#
Maternal death	0	0	0	0	#
**Neonatal Death		#	5	#	6

In line with Trust policy on small number suppression, figures fewer than five have been replaced with “#”.

*Levels of harm combine gynaecology and maternity reported incidents – unable to separate without exceeding section 12 exemption

** Neonatal death (source MBRRACE)

3. Safeguarding or Escalation Concerns

Please state:

* The number of safeguarding concerns raised in connection with a home birth during each period .

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Safeguarding referrals	0	0	0	0	0

* Any Serious Incidents (SIs) or HSIB referrals relating specifically to home births during each period.

For the period requested (2021–2025), the number of Serious Incidents or HSIB referrals relating specifically to home births is fewer than five in the relevant year(s).

In line with Trust policy on small number suppression, figures fewer than five have been replaced with “#”.

Our Ref: 87
February 2026

Disclosure of small numbers relating to serious incidents, when combined with other information already provided (including total home birth numbers per year), could potentially lead to identification of individuals. As such, this information constitutes personal data.
The information is therefore withheld under **Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**, as disclosure would be unfair and unlawful under 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/>

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