

Freedom of Information Act Request

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

I am a registered midwife undertaking postgraduate research at Bournemouth University, exploring current provision relating to intrapartum (labour and birth) care for neurodivergent people within maternity services.

I would be grateful if you could confirm whether your trust holds the following information, and if so, provide copies or links where available:

1. Policies and Procedures

Does your trust have any formal policies, pathways, or standard operating procedures that reference the care of neurodivergent patients during labour and birth?

If so, please provide copies or links.

The Trust does not currently hold a specific policy, pathway, or standard operating procedure that relates solely to the care of neurodivergent patients during labour and birth.

2. Guidelines or Protocols for Staff

Does your trust provide any guidance or protocols for staff relating to communication approaches, sensory adjustments, reasonable adjustments, or other supportive care for neurodivergent patients during the intrapartum period?

If so, please provide copies or links.

The Trust does not have a formal guideline or protocol specific to neurodivergent patients during the intrapartum period.

However, staff are supported to provide personalised care through existing approaches and tools, including:

- **Maternity passports**, which support communication of individual needs and preferences
- **Personalised Care and Support Plans (PCSPs)**, which enable consideration of:
 - Communication approaches
 - Sensory adjustments

- Reasonable adjustments
- Individualised care needs

These approaches are used to support person-centred care rather than through a standalone neurodivergence-specific guideline.

3. Resources, Tools, or Training Materials

Does your trust use any resources, tools, or training materials (e.g. visual aids, communication tools, sensory supports, or staff training resources) to support neurodivergent patients during labour and birth?

If so, please provide copies, links, or a brief description.

The Trust does not hold specific training materials or resources exclusively dedicated to supporting neurodivergent patients during labour and birth.

However, the use of:

- **Maternity passports, and**
- **Personalised Care and Support Plans (PCSPs)**

supports staff in identifying and responding to individual needs, including those related to neurodivergence.

Where possible, I would appreciate if the information can be provided in an electronic format. If documents are not held centrally but are used locally within services, a brief description of what is available would be helpful. If no information is held or available, please confirm this.

If any of this information is already publicly available, I would be grateful if you could direct me to the relevant source.

Our Ref:187

March 2026



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/>