



FOI REF: 23/037

7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://www.esht.nhs.uk)

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

**Please provide the number of cases where breast milk of a new mother was given to a child who is not her own at all maternity wards in your Trust.**

**For clarity, I am asking you to please provide the number of instances where a child on a maternity ward was given breast milk from a person who was not their mother.**

- 1. Please provide annual figures for how many times this happened at your Trust for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and so far in 2023.**

East Sussex Healthcare had one case in 2017 with no other cases reported.

- 2. Please also give the number of times disciplinary action was taken on a member of staff over these instances. Please provide a breakdown of the outcome of any disciplinary action: How many were cautioned, suspended, terminated etc as a direct result of the mistake.**

No disciplinary action taken as milk was stored in fridge clearly labelled. Mother or birth supporter retrieved milk to give to baby – human error.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department ([esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

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Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)  
Corporate Governance Manager  
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