

FOI REF: 22/333

23rd July 2022

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: 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:

1. **Copies of the reports into maternity care in your trust:**

The reports will be entitled 'Maternity Quality and Safety Champions Report' or 'Maternity Safety Champion Report' (or equivalent) and submitted by the Director of Midwifery (or equivalent)

Clarification was sought asking you to be more specific about what information is required with and confirmation was received as follows:

I'm referring to the reports published monthly or quarterly which give an overview of your maternity services in terms of safety and quality'.

Please provide every report (whether submitted monthly or quarterly) since Jan 1 2020. If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to it exceeding the cost of compliance limits, please work back from the most recent report

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain within the Trust Board meetings in public papers via: <https://www.esht.nhs.uk/about-the-trust/meetings-in-public/>

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

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If providing the above does not exceed the cost limits, could I also request the following:

2. For each calendar month within the below three time periods (a. - c.), please provide the number of avoidable term admissions into the neonatal unit. We understand you are required to collect this data under the 'ATAIN' programme. Please also provide this data as a percentage of live births each month.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record whether babies reviewed under ATAIN were avoidable. To enable the Trust to provide the information requested would require a manual review of each case which we estimate would take approximately 40 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

3. For each calendar month within the below three time periods (a. - c.), please provide the number of 'early resolution complaints' (or equivalent) made to your Trust about the maternity services. Of these complaints, please state the number which became 'formal care group complaints' (or equivalent).

The three time periods:

- a. Jan 1 2020 - Dec 31 2020

Out of 36 PALS contacts (concerns), 2 became formal complaints.

- b. Jan 1 2021 - Dec 31 2021

Out of 31 PALS contacts (concerns), 2 became formal complaints.

- c. Jan 1 2022 - June 13 2022

Out of 26 PALS contacts (concerns), 0 became formal complaints.

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

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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), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

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
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net