

FOI REF: 23/510

20th October 2023

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:

We wish to request the following information for Antenatal and Newborn Screening team provision:

Please can you provide us with the following information for 2021-22 and 2022-23?

1) Is care recorded on paper or an IT system?

IT System – Badgernet.

2) Pregnancy bookings?

	2021/22	2022/23
Bookings	3,684	3,160

3) Birth numbers?

	21/22	22/23
Women giving birth	2,840	2,789
Registrable babies	2,837	2,797

4) Do you have a neonatal unit and if so is this level 1, 2 or 3?

Yes, level 1.

Cont.../

5) What is the current uptake of screening for TR 13/18 and 21?

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 and can be accessed by the following link:

[antenatal KPI reports - Search - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The link for 2022/23 is as follows:

[NHS population screening programmes: KPI reports 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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

6) How many high chance Combined?

Year 2021/2022	64
Year 2022/2023	65

7) How many high chance Quads?

Year 2021/2022	6
Year 2022/2023	7

8) Does the screening coordinator provide all, the majority, or none of the counselling for high chance results? Who else supports this?

Screening Coordinator and 2 Deputy Screening Midwives.

9) How many NIPT samples did you take?

Year 2021/2022	40
Year 2022/2023	44

10) Do you have a fetal medicine service?

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) has an Obstetric Consultant with a special interest in fetal medicine. Depending on the situation, ESHT refers to tertiary centres for further specialist fetal medicine input.

11) How many hours/days per week? is a midwife or the screening midwife present during these consultations? If yes what is the banding?

Consultant scan lists: Screening Coordinator (B7) or Deputy Screening Midwives (B6) are present as follows: week 1 = 12 hours; week 2 = 6 hours

12) How many NIPD samples did you take?

Clarification was sought asking you to confirm if you mean means non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) or non-invasive prenatal diagnosis (NIPD) and confirmation was received as follows:

NIPD samples is non-invasive prenatal diagnosis.

We do not perform prenatal diagnosis at ESHT.

13) How many CVS did you perform?

As above – 0.

14) How many amniocentesis did you perform?

As above – 0

15) How many feticide did you perform?

As above – 0

16) Number of termination of pregnancy for fetal abnormality?

2021/22 STOP/MTOP for fetal abnormalities = 20

2022/23 STOP/MTOP for fetal abnormalities = 23

17) a) Do you offer surgical termination and if so to what gestation?

No.

b) Do you offer medical termination?

Yes. If >21+6 we refer for fetocide prior to continuation of procedure.

c) Does the screening coordinator provide hours/support for this?

Yes.

18) Do you provide training for midwives on a mandatory day (how many hours) or how do you give updates to midwives?

We provide the following: 1 hour in the mandatory training session (each Midwife Maternity Support Worker has to attend this once a year); 1 hour training for new starters (newly qualified midwives; new to Trust Midwives; change of care setting from acute unit to a community role); 1-2-1 support is offered as required.

19) Staff numbers, banding and hours within the antenatal and new-born team:

- **Screening Coordinator**

Band 7 37.5 hours/week.

- **Deputy Screening Coordinator**

2 x Band 6 posts: 1 x 32 hours/week; 1 x 15 hours/week.

20) Any additional cover for foetal medicine or is this included within the Screening Coordinator's role?

Included in the Screening Team role.

21) Failsafes: antenatal screening new-born bloodspot and new-born infant examination - do you have a failsafe officer and if so what is the banding/hours? If not who performs the failsafe?

ESHT does not have a Failsafe Officer. We have two whole time equivalent's Maternity Support Workers, and one full time Screening Administrator. All Band 3.

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), 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