

## Title

### Live Births / Stillbirths / Neonatal Deaths

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Reference Number: RDF1667-23

Date of Response: 01/08/2023

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

Please can you tell me how many live births, stillbirths and neonatal deaths the trust has recorded in every year between 2013-2022.

No.	Question	Year				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1.	Total live births	5,253	5,096	4,987	5,125	4,733
2.	Total still births	14	17	15	18	18
3.	Total neonatal deaths	≤5	≤5	≤5	7	6

FOI Exemption - Section 40 (2 and 3a) - <5

States that the Trust cannot provide information which constitutes personal data where release would contravene any of the data protection principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

The Trust also believes that the release of such sensitive information meets the definition of personal data and disclosing the information would contravene Principle (a) as set out in Article 5 of the UK GDPR as the processing would not be lawful, fair and transparent. As such release of the information would be likely to cause distress to the families concerned.

FOI Exemption Section 12 (1) - 2013 – 2017 data.

The national Perinatal Mortality Review Tool, was only launched in 2018 and therefore we do not have robust data from before this time period... As such, we are unable to provide data prior to 2018 as the information would be held on legacy IT systems no longer used.

To try to respond with data check legacy data for 2013 – 2017 for all questions 1,2 and 3 would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources which would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

Trust Historic data systems would not accurately contain all information requested. The only way for us to check for certain data for 2013 – 2017 would be to request the confidential appropriate notes and review each. A rough estimate of in the region of 60-70 sets of notes would take more than 2 hours of administration time, a further 15 to 20 minutes per set of notes at a very minimum to review x 70 sets, and more than 2 hours administration work to deal with the requested records once finished with. To try to obtain the requested information would take an estimate of over 20 hours.

Detailed below the relevant excerpt of the act for Section 12.

#### Section 12

12. — (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting that information.