

Induced Labour Waiting Times

Reference Number: RDF1830-23

Date of Response: 22/09/23

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 1st 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).

1. Please provide the number of pregnant women that waited over 24 hours for their labour to be induced at your maternity unit for each of the past five years.
2. Please provide the number of pregnant women who have waited for over a week (7 days) for induction of labour at your maternity unit.
3. Please provide the longest waiting time a woman waited for their labour to be induced at your maternity unit over the last year.

Section 12 (1)

The Trust has considered your request in the above questions 1,2 and 3 however to provide you with the information requested would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources. To carry out this work would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

Pre-2020 Trust staff would need to manually pull all maternal records for IOL (Induction of Labour) patients this would certainly take over 18 hours, then for patients post-2020 My Care go live we would need to pull a report of all IOL's and then look into each Again, with an increasing IOL rate this would undoubtedly take over 18hours.

With a birth rate of around 3,500 and an approximate induction of labour rate of 30%, this would be around 1050 patients per year who went through the induction of labour process. To then pull each of these records and review the pathway/delays this would take approximately 15 minutes per record to review.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 12 (1) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of complying 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.