

Title Cancelled Caesarean Operation

Reference Number: RDF2006-23

Date of Response: 20/11/23

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).

I am requesting that you provide me with the data requested in questions 1,2 and 3 in a way that would not enable individuals to be identified, as per Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act, regulation 13, so there should not be a problem providing it. I would like to request the following information:

- 1) *The exact number of planned caesarean sections cancelled, month by month, from October 2022 to the present day, for each of the inpatient maternity units that your Trust runs.*

	NDDH Maternity Theatre	WON CWH Theatre
Oct-22	*<5	7
Nov-22		7
Dec-22		*<5
Jan-23	6	6
Feb-23	*<5	*<5
Mar-23		*<5
Apr-23	*<5	*<5
May-23	*<5	7
Jun-23		7
Jul-23	*<5	*<5
Aug-23		8
Sep-23	*<5	6
Oct-23	*<5	8
Nov-23		*<5

- 2) *For each cancelled appointment, what the outcome was, for example whether the procedure was carried out later or at another hospital.*

*<5 Section 40(2) exemption.

Outcome	Count
Did not deliver at trust	*<5
Emergency LSCS after cancelled date	12

Emergency LSCS same date	*<5
Emergency LSCS before cancelled date	*<5
Instrumental after cancelled date	*<5
Instrumental birth same date	*<5
Rebooked elective LSCS after cancelled date	16
Rebooked elective LSCS same date	14
Vaginal birth after cancelled date	6
Vaginal birth same date	33

- 3) *Mortality rates for mothers and babies who receive care in your units.*
- Maternal Mortality rates: Answer: *<5 Section 40(2) exemption.
 - Neonatal Mortality rates: Answer: - Neonatal Mortality rates; 4.4/1,000 births – taken from MBRACE 2021 data which is the most complete and up to date information (please find attached).

Section 40(2) exemption - *<5

Please note: For the Trust response to question 1 2 and 3: Section 40(2) exemption - *<5 has been applied when applicable: Where the figures are less than or equal to 5 this has been denoted by *<5. Due to the small numbers, we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. The reason for this is that the number of patients for which this applies is very low. This and the fact that the data requested relates to The Royal Devon University Health Care Trust only and therefore relates to patients treated in a specific location (rather than covering a larger geographical area), increases the risk of identification or self-identification.

In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the GDPR, namely Principle 1. The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

MBRRACE-UK perinatal mortality report: 2021 births

This report concerns stillbirths and neonatal deaths among the 5,151 babies born within your Trust in 2021, **EXCLUDING** births before 24 weeks gestational age and all terminations of pregnancy.

It includes details of the stillbirths and neonatal deaths for births that occurred in your Trust in 2021, as well as background information on all births. Neonatal deaths are reported by place of birth, irrespective of where the death occurred, as denominator data on the place of care is not available for all births.

Key messages

All deaths

1. Your stabilised & adjusted stillbirth rate is **3.32 per 1,000 total births**. This is around the average for similar Trusts & Health Boards.
2. Your stabilised & adjusted neonatal mortality rate is **1.09 per 1,000 live births**. This is around the average for similar Trusts & Health Boards.
3. Your stabilised & adjusted extended perinatal mortality rate is **4.40 per 1,000 total births**. This is around the average for similar Trusts & Health Boards.

Excluding deaths due to congenital anomalies

1. Your stabilised & adjusted stillbirth rate excluding deaths due to congenital anomalies is **2.97 per 1,000 total births**. This is around the average for similar Trusts & Health Boards.
2. Your stabilised & adjusted neonatal mortality rate excluding deaths due to congenital anomalies is **0.86 per 1,000 live births**. This is more than 5% higher than the average for similar Trusts & Health Boards.
3. Your stabilised & adjusted extended perinatal mortality rate excluding deaths due to congenital anomalies is **3.83 per 1,000 total births**. This is around the average for similar Trusts & Health Boards.

Full details of your perinatal mortality rates can be found on page 2.

Recommended actions

As the neonatal mortality rate calculated excluding deaths due to congenital anomalies has been highlighted above, it is important to: a) review the data that was entered locally about your Trust to ensure it is accurate and complete; and b) ensure that a review using the Perinatal Mortality Review Tool (PMRT) has been carried out for all the deaths in this report to assess care, identify and implement service improvements to prevent future similar deaths.

Definitions

<i>Late fetal loss:</i>	A baby delivered between 22 ⁺⁰ and 23 ⁺⁶ weeks gestational age showing no signs of life, irrespective of when the death occurred.
<i>Stillbirth:</i>	A baby delivered at or after 24 ⁺⁰ weeks gestational age showing no signs of life, irrespective of when the death occurred.
<i>Neonatal death:</i>	A live born baby who died up to 28 completed days after birth.
<i>Extended perinatal death:</i>	A stillbirth or neonatal death.