

## Tongue Tie Treatment and Referral Wait

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Reference Number: RDF1676-23

Date of Response: 01/08/23

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 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).

*I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. Please see below a request for the following information relating to tongue tie in babies aged 0-12 months.*

- 1. How many babies were born within your Trust between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

Answer: 4,777.

- 2. How many babies were diagnosed with ankyloglossia (tongue tie) between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31 2022 at your Trust?*

Answer: 328.

- 3. On average how many days after birth was a tongue tie diagnosis made between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

Answer: 4 days.

- 4. How many babies diagnosed with tongue tie were referred for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information in full. Referrals are submitted via various methods some of which are not trackable.

- 5. Is the frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) available to babies who are fully formula fed?*

Answer: Yes.

- 6. How many frenotomy procedures (tongue tie division) were carried out on babies at your Trust between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

Answer: 264.

- 7. What was the average waiting time in days between diagnosis/ referral and a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information, please see response to question 4. Our threshold for the urgent/ routine appointment pathway is

detailed in our Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and stated at 8 weeks. In practice we are probably slightly more generous and will go up to three months (and issue an earlier appointment).

The Trust aims to see babies within 2 weeks, we will often see them within a few days or sometimes on the same day if they are a current inpatient for example.

8. *How many women had to wait 3 weeks or longer after a referral for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) or their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

Answer: The Trust is does not hold this information, please see response to question 4.

9. *How many women waited more than 6 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks and 16 weeks or longer for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) for their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

Answer: The Trust is does not hold this information, please see response to question 4.

10. *What is the longest amount of time a women had to wait after a referral for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) for their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

Answer: The Trust is does not hold this information, please see response to question 4.

11. *If there is no tongue tie division service in your Trust how many referrals were made to an alternative NHS Service for tongue toe division?*

Answer: Not applicable, there is a tongue tie division service in our Trust.

12. *How many women declined the offer of a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) within the NHS between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

Answer: The Trust has considered your request; this information is not recorded in a manner that can be easily reported on, 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.

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 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.

13. *Of the women who declined the offer of a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) within the NHS between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022 are you aware how many sought treatment privately instead?*

Answer: Please see response to question 12, this information is not recorded by the Trust in a manner that can be easily reported on as requested.