

Mother & Baby Deaths During Childbirth

Reference Number: RDF1420-23

Date of Response: 09/05/2023

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 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. [How many women died at the trust during labour or as a result of complications in labour between 2018-2023? Can this please be broken down by year.](#)
2. [How many babies died at the trust during labour or as a result of complications in labour between 2018-2023? Can this please be broken down by year.](#)
3. [How many women died at the trust during labour or as a result of complications in labour between 2018-2023? Can this please be broken down by year.](#)

Please see Trust response to questions 1,2 and 3 below.

Please note: **Section 40 (2) - <5**

In accordance with Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide figures where the number of patients is less than or equal to five and could risk the identification of those patients and breach Caldicott principles. In these cases, ≤5 is used to indicate that a figure between 1 and 5 is being suppressed.

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wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients/staff and should not be published.

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
0	0	0	<5	0	0

4. [How many babies died at the trust during labour or as a result of complications in labour between 2018-2023? Can this please be broken down by year.](#)

The Trust issues Section 17 refusal notice to question 4, and as such applies the following FOI Exemption:

Section 12 (1)

The Trust has considered your request, however, the information requested in question 4 is very difficult to answer as we will need to review the cause of

death of every stillbirth and neonatal death. It will also depend on what we define as 'complications in labour'. To provide you with the information requested would require the manual review, extraction, and manipulation of information from various sources. The sources would include the manual search of case notes and Trust files for each year. 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 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.