

## Title

### Births At NDDH

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Reference Number: RDF2000-23

Date of Response: 08/12/23

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).

Please provide the following information in relation to **North Devon District Hospital**; (If a baby was born at your hospital and transferred to another hospital and died at another hospital, please exclude them from these numbers and specify the number separately in brackets).

1. **How many births were there at North Devon District Hospital.**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020 - 1343  
Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021 - 1244  
Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022 - 1306  
Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023 - 1145  
Between 1 April 2023 to date - 729

2. **How many live births were there at your hospital during the following periods.**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020 - 1338  
Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021 - 1239  
Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022 - 1302  
Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023 - 1141  
Between 1 April 2023 to date - 728

3. **How many still births (after 24 weeks) were there at your hospital during the following periods.**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020  
Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021  
Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022  
Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023  
Between 1 April 2023 to date.

Answer: \*Section 40 (3a). Please see full exemption on page 4.

4. **Of these stillbirths (above) how many were Intrapartum stillbirths? 0.**
5. **Of these still births (above) how many Neonatal deaths were there at your hospital** It is not possible to answer this question. A stillborn baby cannot also be classified as a neonatal death.
5. **Of these still births (above) how many were caused by problems with the umbilical cord.**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020 - 0

Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021 - 0

Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022 - 0

Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023 - 0

Between 1 April 2023 to date. - 0

6. **Of these still births (above) how many still births were caused by chorioamnionitis during the following period.**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020

Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021

Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022

Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023

Between 1 April 2023 to date.

It is not possible to answer this question. Chorioamnionitis may or may not be present where a baby is stillborn but is unlikely to be defined as the cause of death.

7. **How many mothers reported reduced movement during the following periods.**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020

Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021

Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022

Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023

Between 1 April 2023 to date

Answer: \*Section 12 - Cost of Compliance. Please see full exemption on page 4.

8. **Of those mothers who reported reduced movement, how many experienced still births during the following periods.**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020

Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021

Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022

Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023

Between 1 April 2023 to date.

Answer: \*Section 12 - Cost of Compliance. It is not possible to answer this question without reviewing the documentation of all pregnancies in the periods specified. Please see full exemption on page 4.

9. **How many mothers had confirmed that their waters broke and were later sent home or went home,**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020

Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021

Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022

Answer: \*Section 12 - Cost of Compliance – for the above dates.

Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023 - 32

Between 1 April 2023 to date. 26 to date.

10. **Out of those mothers whose waters had broken and were sent home, how many resulted in still births:**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020

Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021

Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022

Answer: The Trust applies \*Section 12 - Cost of Compliance – for the above dates.

Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023 0

. Between 1 April 2023 to date. \*Section 40 (3a). Please see full exemption on page 4.

11. **How many still births at 35 weeks**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020 - 0

Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021 - 0

Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022 - 0

Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023 - 0

Between 1 April 2023 to date. - 0

12. **How many still births at 36 weeks.**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020- 0

Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021 \*Section 40 (3a)

Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022 -0

Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023 -0

Between 1 April 2023 to date. \*Section 40 (3a)

13. **How many still births at 37 weeks.**

Between 1 April 2019 - 31st March 2020 - 0

Between 1 April 2020 - 31st March 2021 - 0

Between 1 April 2021 - 31st March 2022 - 0

Between 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023, \*Section 40 (3a)

Between 1 April 2023 to date. \*Section 40 (3a)

### **\*Section 12 - Cost of Compliance**

It is not possible to answer this question without reviewing the documentation of all pregnancies in the period. The only data that is held is part of a patient's medical record. This information could not reliably be pulled from the trust electronic patient record EPIC. To try providing you with the information requested (if held) would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources. To conduct 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.

### **\*Section 40 (3a)**

The Trust has carefully considered your request. However, it declines to provide the specific details of the information requested under Section 40 (3a) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Trust recognises that whilst the information requested does not itself identify the patient(s), the questions are asking for extremely specific and focused details, and due to the low number of cases involved, release of the information into to the public domain would be likely to cause distress to families concerned. The data requested relates to The Royal Devon Health Care NHS Trust Northern Service only and therefore relates to a specific location (rather than covering a larger geographical area), increases the risk of identification. The Trust believes that the release of such sensitive information meets the definition of personal data and disclosing the information would contravene one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. The trust believes it has a greater responsibility to protect those involved.