

Title: **Tongue Tie Assessment and Diagnosis**

Reference Number: FOI RDF1063

Date of Response: 03/01/2023

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Dear Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,

1. *Do Midwives use The Bristol Tongue-tie Assessment Tool? If No please state the assessment used*

Answer: Yes (on referral documentation).

2. *Please confirm which staff perform the assessment. For example midwife or a doctor?*

Answer: Midwife/ Health visitors/ Doctors before referral, Doctor (once referred and on clinic).

3. *Is it a specialist midwife or a junior doctor at the Newborn and Infant Physical Examination (NIPE) assessment?*

Answer: There is no formal step for this, it is based on feeding symptoms and the attending health professional. It is carried out in our Tongue Tie Assessment Clinic once a possible tongue tie is identified by midwife/ doctor at the NIPE.

4. *Do you have staff designated to perform tongue tie surgery?*

Answer: Yes.

- a. *please state if this is an outpatient clinic*

Answer: Outpatient Clinic.

- b. *how many staff*

Answer: 9.

- c. *staff job designation/band.*

Answer: 2 Oral & Maxillofacial Consultant & 7 Oral and Maxillofacial SAS doctors.

5. *If No - do staff advise parents to speak to their GP or Health visitor?*

Answer: N/A.

6. *If Yes - What service improvements have been made to your service in the past 18 months as a result of patient feedback?*

Answer: Electronic referrals/triage with same day (or occasionally next day) triage and appointment allocation. Signposting to post discharge feeding support, with feeding support trained staff available for post op.

7. *If yes please provide an example and include the source of the original feedback e.g. National Maternity Survey, Complaint, PALS, FFT.*

Answer: Patients had previously been reviewed by telephone to shape the service but the workload involved now makes this unmanageable. No formal process exists; PALS is therefore the route for feedback.