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Request for Information Reference: 05.17.02

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Email only

19 June 2017

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for your request for information received on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding the maternity service deaths. Specifically you asked:

### **1. Baby deaths**

#### ***a) How many term stillbirths and perinatal deaths have there been at your Trust in each year the past decade (from 2006-2016)?***

Answer: Please see the below figures for term stillbirths & perinatal deaths. These figures are for financial years (Apr-Mar) 2009/10 to 2015/16. Due to maternity system change we only have gestation fields for data back to 2009 so the figures for 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 are not available. The Trust has listed the criteria used to pull the figures as below.

Please note perinatal deaths include the term stillbirth (TSB) numbers as term stillbirths are categorised within the perinatal criteria also as follows:

Criteria used;

Term stillbirth = stillbirths 37 weeks and over

Perinatal deaths = stillbirths 24 weeks and over plus deaths 0-28 days after birth

Year	Perinatal deaths and Term stillbirths (TSB)
2009/10	27
2010/11	24
2011/12	27
2012/13	24
2013/14	28
2014/15	18
2015/16	27

**b) How many of those were formally investigated as serious incidents?**

All stillbirths and perinatal deaths are reviewed and if any learning or improvements are identified a review is undertaken

Answer: 17

Year	Serious incident investigation
2006	0
2007	0
2008	1
2009	2
2010	1
2011	2
2012	2
2013	2
2014	2
2015	4
2016	1

**c) How many have been found to be potentially avoidable by either internal or external investigations, including inquests?**

Answer:

Potentially avoidable: 6

Unavoidable: 11

In the past, the Trust identified the increase in potential incidents and sought external support to complete a full review of the service. This included regulatory bodies and other maternity departments. A quality improvement plan was produced and the Trust continues to monitor actions to ensure that improvement has become embedded.

**2. Maternal deaths**

**a) How many maternal deaths have there been in each year over the past decade (from 2006-2016)?**

*Criteria used;*

*Women coded as giving birth and have a discharge method of deceased within the same spell*

Year	Maternal deaths
2006/07	0
2007/08	0
2008/09	0
2009/10	0
2010/11	0
2011/12	0
2012/13	0
2013/14	0
2014/15	1
2015/16	0

The maternal death identified above was not the subject of a review as this patient had a terminal illness and her death was expected.

**b) How many of those were formally investigated as serious incidents?**

Answer: 3

Year	Serious incident investigation
2006	0
2007	0
2008	0
2009	1
2010	1
2011	0
2012	0
2013	0
2014	1
2015	0
2016	0

Question 2a relates to patients who died within our care, whereas question 2b also includes patients who died within other care settings but for whom we also contributed to the subsequent investigations.

***c) How many have been found to be potentially avoidable by either internal or external investigations, including inquests?***

Answer:

Potentially avoidable = 1

This patient had a complication of delivery that was not immediately recognised and, as part of the management of this, was transferred to a tertiary centre and died as a complication of a procedure carried out whilst at the tertiary centre.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive  
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust  
Darlington Memorial Hospital  
Hollyhurst Road  
Darlington  
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

**Joanna Tyrrell**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**