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Request for Information Reference: 12.18.27

Direct line: 01325 743700  
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Email only

25 January 2019

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 27 December 2018 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 births and maternal deaths. Specifically you requested information as follows:

**1. *How many births have taken place each year within Trust Hospitals between 2008 -2018?***

Answer: Please see spreadsheet attached. Please note that maternity data starts from 1 January 2009, we do not hold such information prior to 1 January 2009.

**2. *Does this Hospital Trust have on record the number of maternal deaths - between the years 2008-2018?***

Answer: Please see spreadsheet attached. Please note that maternity data starts from 1 January 2009.

**3. *Is the Hospital Trust able to provide with me with further details on the cause of death for each woman?***

- Cause of death to a patient in 2014, primary cause of death monastic breast cancer, died 10 days after delivery.
- Cause of Death to a patient in 2015, Primary cause suicide whilst in residing in prison

**4. *Is this Hospital Trust able to provide an ethnic breakdown of all of the women who have died, i.e. the data for BME mothers and White British mothers?***

Answer: Please see the spreadsheet attached.

- 5. Is this Hospital Trust able to provide a detailed ethnic breakdown of all of the women who have died, i.e. highlighting the number of Black African women, Black Caribbean women, British Pakistani women, White British women, British Indian women etc. who have died?**

Answer: Please see the spreadsheet attached.

- 6. Within the same time frame of 2008-2018, how many complaints have been received by the Trust regarding the care and treatment of pregnant women and new mothers (new mother within this context meaning up to one year after the birth)?**

The Trust does not centrally record this information, to supply the number would require the review of patient notes which would take over the permitted timescale within the act therefore; we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and a quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

- 7. Within the same time frame, can you provide a breakdown of the complaints by ethnicity, detailing for example, how many Black Caribbean pregnant women and new mothers complained about their care at the Trust?**

Answer: The Trust does not record this type of data.

- 8. Within the same time frame of 2008-2018, has the Trust outlined and implemented any specific measures in response to data such as that released by MBRRACE-UK in November 2018, (This data revealed that Black and Asian women have a higher risk of dying in pregnancy)?**

Answer: Any recommendations that are in MBRRACE reports where changes to policy/practice/services that are needed to be made are implemented as required. We are unable to be specific about any that are in relation to ethnic minorities.

- 9. If you believe contents of any such files are exempt from disclosure, please provide summaries of any such exempt files.**

Answer: None exempt.

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**