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Request for Information Reference: 11.21.63

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Email only

9th December 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 29th November 2021 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to birth statistics and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

With regards to exact numbers of patients for each year, the Trust has withheld this information, as to disclose this information would breach one of the data protection principles contained in the Data Protection Act 2018 (which supplements the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into effect in May 2018) in that it would render it possible to identify the individuals. We do not believe that it would be fair to the individuals for their identities to be made public. We therefore believe that the exemption contained within section 40 of the Act is engaged.

The Trust has assessed the risk that the identities of the individual patients could be inferred, and judges that possibility to be real. It has therefore taken the decision to withhold this information under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. The Trust is relying, in part, on the absolute exemption available under Section 40(3) (a) (i), where information would be shared in contravention of the principles in the Data Protection Act and the qualified exemption in Section (40) (3) (a) (ii), where the numbers published could allow the identify of individual patients to be inferred causing damage or distress to themselves or their families.

What the Trust is able to provide are answers to your questions using the combined totals from 2015 to 2020 which we feel answers the essence of your questions without specifying the year each baby was born.

- 1. The number of women recorded as giving birth at the trust whose address was recorded as DH1 5YA (HMP Low Newton) for the years 2015-2020**

Women delivered
18

2. The birthweights of these births;

0 to 2499g	2500-2999g	3000-3499g	3500-3999g
6	7	5	2

3. Of the aforementioned births, how many of these births were (a) stillbirths, (b) caesarean sections; (c) vaginal births; (d) babies admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit after birth

Stillbirths	caesarean section births	vaginal births (including instrumental deliveries)	babies admitted to neonatal special care unit
1	7	13	12

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 on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator