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Request for Information Reference: 07.22.02

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700  
Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)

Email only

26<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 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 child birth incidents and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**1. How many bladder injuries sustained during childbirth were recorded in the last five years (2016 – 2021)**

Year	Obstetric injury to pelvic organs
2016	0
2017	3
2018	2
2019	6
2020	6
2021	4

**2. How many organ injuries were recorded as a result of a caesarean (elective or emergency) in the last five years (2016 – 2021)**

Year	Obstetric damage/trauma + C-Section procedure
2016	0
2017	5
2018	2

Year	Obstetric damage/trauma + C-Section procedure
2019	2
2020	8
2021	1

**3. How many anal sphincter injuries sustained during childbirth were recorded in the last five years (2016 – 2021)**

The Trust does not centrally record this information and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested. In order to gather this information it would require a member of staff to manually examine all patient notes from the period. 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 hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

**4. How many third grade or fourth grade tears sustained during childbirth were recorded in the last five years?**

Year	3rd/4th degree
2016	92
2017	105
2018	81
2019	65
2020	76
2021	49

**5. Of these injuries, how many patients were referred to perinatal and pelvic health physiotherapy services?**

**6. Of these injuries, how many patients were still being followed up for ongoing care after 2 years?**

The Trust does not centrally record this information and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested. In order to gather this information it would require a member of staff to manually examine all patient notes for the period. 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 hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

**7. Of these injuries, how many resulted in a serious incident investigation being raised?**

Zero

**8. Of these injuries, how many were recorded as ‘never events’.**

Zero

**9. Of these injuries, how many patients received Duty of Candour notifications.**

2

**10. How many readmissions post-birth were recorded in the last five years related to bladder injuries?**

5 patients were readmitted within 28 days of delivery (2 of which were emergency readmission, the other 3 were post-natal)

**11. How many readmissions post-birth were recorded in the last five years related to anal sphincter injuries?**

The Trust does not centrally record this information and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested. In order to gather this information it would require a member of staff to manually examine all patient notes for the period. 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 hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

**12. How many readmissions post-birth were recorded in the last five years related to third grade or fourth grade tears sustained during childbirth?**

There were 31 readmissions within 28 days, however the data does not break down specifically to the tear.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator**