

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: UHB 18-328

Date 12 June 2018

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trusts response is as follows:

1. How many women gave birth at your trust in each of the last five years:

13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
5311	5129	5000	5196	4912

2. For each year, please could you break down the birth by type of delivery including:

a) Number of vaginal deliveries for each year

Please note the following data has been broken down into two subcategories to provide more context to the dataset; they are i) normal vaginal deliveries and ii) operative vaginal deliveries.

Normal Vaginal Deliveries

13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
3266	3131	3088	3108	2811

Operative Vaginal Deliveries

13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
784	786	763	753	795

b) Total number of planned caesarean sections for each year

Please note The Trust uses different terminology to record information around Caesareans; elective equates to planned and emergency equates to unplanned.

Elective Caesareans

13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
747	698	641	760	721

Please note an elective can become an emergency, we are unable to identify those where an emergency has become an elective (without reviewing the patient notes) as the final categorisation of emergency or elective is recorded after the birth. Doing this would exceed the 18 hour FOI limit.

c) Number of planned caesarean sections for medical reasons for each year

We do hold this information however the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to easily quantify and fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. **Section 12** of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

d) number of planned caesarean sections for non-medical reasons for each year

We do hold this information however the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to easily quantify and fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. **Section 12** of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

e) total number of unplanned caesarean sections for each year

Emergency Caesareans

13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
514	514	508	572	584

3. For the planned caesarean sections, could you please provide the reasons for these being carried out. If you cannot provide all the reasons for planned caesarean sections being carried out, please could you provide the 10 most common reasons.

We are unable to provide the top 10 for each year as some of the reasons have fewer than six patients per list and this could potentially breach patient confidentiality and the Data Protection Act Therefore please find that Section 40 (2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. We have provided top five instead for each financial year:

Elective caesarean & Emergency caesarean with totals (13/14 to 17/18)

Year	Delivery Method	indication for caesarean	Total
13/14	Elective caesarean section	Previous caesarean section	293
		Breech presentation	130
		Maternal request	47
		Multiple pregnancy	46
		Previous traumatic vaginal delivery	16
	Emergency caesarean section	Pathological CTG	150
		Failure to progress in labour	61
		Failed instrumental delivery	52
		Failure to progress induction	26
Breech presentation		22	
14/15	Elective caesarean section	Previous caesarean section	205
		Breech presentation	88
		Maternal request	62
		Other maternal problem	25
		Previous traumatic vaginal delivery	23
	Emergency caesarean section	Pathological CTG	157
		Failure to progress in labour	75
		Failed instrumental delivery	35
		Failure to progress induction	27
Breech presentation		22	
15/16	Elective caesarean section	Previous caesarean section	171
		Breech presentation	77
		Previous caesarean section x2	57
		Maternal request	30
		Other maternal problem	27
	Emergency caesarean section	Pathological CTG	149
		Failure to progress in labour	76
		Failed instrumental delivery	48
		Abnormal FBS	22
Breech presentation		22	
16/17	Elective caesarean section	Previous caesarean section	203
		Breech presentation	94
		Previous caesarean section x2	55
		Maternal request	40
		Multiple pregnancy	31
	Emergency caesarean section	abnormal CTG	111
		Failure to progress in labour	82
		Pathological CTG	79
		Failed instrumental delivery	50
Abnormal FBS		21	
17/18	Elective caesarean section	Previous caesarean section	215
		Breech presentation	74

		Previous caesarean section x2	51
		Maternal request	39
		Maternal choice alone	33
	Emergency caesarean section	Failure to progress in labour	113
		Pathological CTG	74
		abnormal CTG	61
		Failed instrumental delivery	48
		Need for urgent intervention (CTG)	44

4. Does your trust have a team dedicated to carrying out caesarean sections, please, and could you please provide details.

Yes. The Trust has a dedicated theatre team each day for LSCS. We also employ a recovery nurse 3 days per week and staff with a midwife as well to go to theatre but we do not scrub as midwives. On the days the nurse does not work we employ an extra midwife to recover them.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Trust Secretary
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

FOI Administrator