

For the Record – Press Statement

Publication and reporter	Express and Star, Daniel Wainwright
Date of article	17 th June 2015
Headline	<p>Print: We want answers on our stillbirth tragedy</p> <p>Online: Devastated parents ask – Why didn't Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital perform caesarean?</p>
First paragraph/s of article	A woman whose daughter was stillborn says she was refused a Caesarian despite raising her concerns that her baby was in distress
Trust response	<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>First and foremost we would like to offer our most sincere condolences to Miss Collins and her partner Mr Davenport on the sad loss of their baby daughter.</p> <p>When a baby's heartbeat stops during pregnancy, it is almost impossible to know the cause until a post mortem has been carried out. It would be wrong to speculate on whether a Caesarean section would have resulted in a successful birth as our investigation is on-going and the results of the post mortem unknown.</p> <p>A decision to undertake a Caesarean section is made taking into account individual circumstances and discussions between the obstetrician and the woman ensuring she is fully aware of the risks involved, as is the case with any surgical procedure.</p> <p>We would generally advise on a vaginal birth, where possible, as Caesarean section results in leaving a scar on the uterus which could have implications for a future pregnancy. Our advice for the type of delivery always considers the safety of the woman.</p> <p>All rooms within our Maternity Unit are thoroughly cleaned each and every time they are vacated in preparation for the</p>

next admission. In addition, the rooms are cleaned every day while they are occupied, taking into account the privacy and dignity of the woman. Clinical waste bins are collected twice a day.

Regarding the issue of the drinking water, our staff were asked specifically if there was a water fountain on the unit, which there is not. Miss Collins was provided with a water jug and glass which could be replenished as needed. Water from the cold water taps across the hospital is drinkable. Women admitted to the Maternity Unit are also provided with a daily selection of refreshments including tea, coffee and drinking chocolate.

We always carry out a thorough investigation into a still birth or neonatal death and this is led by an executive director. The results of the investigation are then reported to our local clinical commissioning group for scrutiny. We cannot comment further on the concerns raised by Miss Collins and Mr Davenport until our investigation has concluded.

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Press enquiry summary

At 12 days over her due date, Miss Collins had been given drugs to induce her but to no avail. She was requesting a caesarian section. She was, it is claimed, refused one.

When the baby was known to have died in the womb, there was still reluctance on the part of medical staff to perform the caesarean.

The couple are concerned that they were told by staff on duty over night to drink water from a sink labelled for hand washing only.

The mother was transferred to a room on a high dependency ward. Miss Collins describes the room as being very unhygienic.

The Express and Star asked the following questions:

1. Does the Dudley Group have any comment on how it handled the treatment of Miss Collins?
2. What does the trust say about the lack of water and the nurses' response to Mr Davenport?

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Why was Miss Collins' request for a caesarean section turned down?4. Would Layla have been born alive if she had been delivered by caesarean?5. Is the hospital trust investigating this further?6. Can we respond to the concerns about the hygiene of the room (33)7. Can we respond to their concerns that they were told they could not have a cup because patients usually brought their own. |
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