

Date: 05/12/2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/013138 – Maternity deaths

Please provide the number of deaths that have occurred in the maternity unit of the hospitals in the trust in 2016. If there have been no deaths, please feel free to just simply reply saying there have been 0 fatalities. Please also provide the number of deaths in 2015/2014/2013 (this can be provided as just 1 number.)

Please include:

1. The date that the death occurred

The Trust has provided the total number of deaths, below, that have occurred for the years 2013 - 2016 (to date). The actual date of death of the babies has not be provided. The date of death of a patient is held within a patient record. Therefore the Trust has exempt this information under section 41(1) of the Freedom of Information Act as confidential information where the Trust still owes a duty of confidence regarding this information following the patient's death.

Action for a breach of confidence could be taken by the personal representative of the deceased person against the Trust

Mothers - 0

Babies (babies are defined as up to 29 days old) - 32

Stillbirths are not deaths and therefore are not included.

2. The hospital in which the death occurred

The Trust's Maternity Unit is at Russells Hall Hospital

3. Whether the victim was a mother or baby

Please see response to question 1

4. The cause of death

The cause of death of a patient is held within a patient record. Therefore the Trust has exempt this information under section 41(1) of the Freedom of Information Act as confidential information where the Trust still owes a duty of confidence regarding this sensitive information following the patients' death.

Action for a breach of confidence could be taken by the personal representative of the deceased person against the Trust.

The cause of a death could be both expected and not-expected.

5. The ethnicity of the victim

Ethnicity (this data set is classed as sensitive information under the Data Protection Act 1998) of a patient is held within a patient record. Therefore the Trust has exempt this information under section 41(1) of the Freedom of Information Act as confidential information where the Trust still owes a duty of confidence regarding this sensitive information following the patient's death. In order to satisfy the first element of section 41(1) information must have been obtained by the public authority from another person. Ethnic origin is originally obtained by the Trust from patients/personal representative. Action for a breach of confidence could be taken by the personal representative of the deceased person against the Trust