

Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ

**Ref:** FOI-092024-0001126

**Date:** 22.1.25

**Address / Email:**

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to request the following information regarding clinical guidelines and the use of birthing pools/water immersion during labour and/or birth by women who had previously had a caesarean section:

**Request Details**

1. **Number of Women Using a Birthing Pool/Water Immersion Following a Previous**
2. **Caesarean Section:**

The Trust is only able to provide information from 2022 when this information was recorded electronically.

2022 – 7

2023 – 4

2024 – 8

3. Please provide the number of women who had a previous caesarean section and used a birthing pool or water immersion during a subsequent labour and/or birth in your Trust for each of the following time periods:

Not known, for this information patient notes would need to be looked at and they are exempt under the Freedom of Information Act Exemption Section 40(1) personal information

• **Clinical Guidelines:**

- Please provide copies of any current maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols specifically relating to:
  - The use of water immersion or birthing pools during labour and/or birth.
  - Vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC).
- Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about water immersion/birthing pools during labour and/or birth.

- Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about vaginal birth after caesarean section.

Please see attached guidelines

For a copy of the guidelines please contact [dgft.foi@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.foi@nhs.net) quoting reference 0001126

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager  
Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ  
Email: [dgft.dpo@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.dpo@nhs.net)

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**