

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

Ref: FOI-032026-0002321

Date: 20.04.2026

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

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

I would be grateful if you could confirm whether your trust holds the following information, and if so, provide copies or links where available:

1. Policies and Procedures

Does your trust have any formal policies, pathways, or standard operating procedures that reference the care of neurodivergent patients during labour and birth?

If so, please provide copies or links.

- Neurodivergence is enquired about at booking, this is also currently being strengthened with new documents being launched next month. Currently anyone who indicates they have neurodivergence meets criteria for a referral to our specialist midwife who gives additional care alongside the community midwife to further facilitate individual care and birth planning. This is outlined in our specialist midwives care pathway.

2. Guidelines or Protocols for Staff

Does your trust provide any guidance or protocols for staff relating to communication approaches, sensory adjustments, reasonable adjustments, or other supportive care for neurodivergent patients during the intrapartum period?

If so, please provide copies or links.

- This is covered as outlined below in our training session.

3. Resources, Tools, or Training Materials

Does your trust use any resources, tools, or training materials (e.g. visual aids, communication tools, sensory supports, or staff training resources) to support neurodivergent patients during labour and birth?

If so, please provide copies, links, or a brief description.

As part of the Trust Saving Babies Lives (SBL) training which to meet MIS training requirements 90% of relevant staff need to attend a one day multi professional training day. We have included within this a patient journey for someone with neurodivergence we include a session on personalising care and health literacy. This includes;

**Reasonable adjustments to care this covers all parts of the maternity journey.
What good care looks like, National Autistic Society framework utilised, MARG evidence based recommendations.
Lived experience from someone with autism who has accessed maternity care
How to have conversations.
Teach back and chunk and check methods.
How ND impacts maternity care.
How we can make maternity services inclusive .
What is ND including what the most common seen within our birthing populations which covers statistics, challenges and common signs.
Legality of Equality act (2010).**

Where possible, I would appreciate if the information can be provided in an electronic format. If documents are not held centrally but are used locally within services, a brief description of what is available would be helpful. If no information is held or available, please confirm this.

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
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DY1 2HQ
Email: 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

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

Yours sincerely

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