



29 July 2024

Our Ref: RFI 58044

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Pregnant Women who have Disclosed Domestic
Abuse**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 23 April 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Surgery & Elective, Maternity & Paediatric Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

For the past five years, please give a breakdown by year of;

Q1. The number of pregnant women who have disclosed that they are a victim of domestic abuse/flagged as victims of domestic abuse in your system (please also include the total number of pregnant patients each year for comparison)?

A1. Please see Table 1 for the number of births within the Trust from 2018 to 2023 and the number of pregnant women who disclosed domestic abuse.

Table 1

Year	Total No. of Births	Total No. of Pregnant Women who Disclosed Domestic Abuse
2018	4300	284
2019	4235	257
2020	4051	235
2021	4209	187
2022	3895	177
2023	3118	120

Q2. The number of women who disclosed DA who experienced infection, premature birth, miscarriage, injury or death [risks listed as per the video on this NHS page <https://www.nhs.uk/pregnancy/support/domestic-abuse-in-pregnancy/>]

A2. The Trust is unable to provide the requested information in relation to women who disclosed domestic abuse and experienced an infection, injury or a miscarriage as this information is not held on a central information system. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice in regards to the information relating to the number of women who experienced infection or injury.

In relation to the number of still births and premature births please refer to Table 2 and 3 below:

- Table 2 - The number of women who have disclosed domestic abuse who have had a still birth.

Table 2

Year	Total No. of Women Disclosing Domestic Abuse	Total No. of Still Births of Women Disclosing Domestic Abuse
2018	284	<5
2019	257	Nil
2020	235	Nil
2021	187	<5
2022	177	<5
2023	120	Nil

Please note, where numbers are 1-4 in table 2, in line with Trust policy, it is given as <5, to reduce any risk of identification of individual patients.

- Table 3 - The number of women who have disclosed domestic abuse who have had a premature birth.

Table 3

Year	Total No. of Women Disclosing Domestic Abuse	Total No. of Premature Births of Women Disclosing Domestic Abuse
2018	284	45
2019	257	35
2020	235	29
2021	187	24
2022	177	20
2023	120	9

Q3. For how many women it has not been possible to undertake in private (aka whilst she is alone) the routine initial enquiry to decipher whether she is a victim?

A3. Within the Trust our policy and practice is that women are asked the Routine Enquiry question when they are on their own and in private.