

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust  
Freedom of Information  
Information Governance Team  
Bircham House  
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Plymouth  
PL6 5WR

FOI email: [plh-tr.foi-requests@nhs.net](mailto:plh-tr.foi-requests@nhs.net)  
FOI webpage: <https://www.plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk/foi>

7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Date request received: 31/12/2020  
Our Ref: 20FOI398

[request-714893-7b41f90d@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-714893-7b41f90d@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Robert Putt

Date request received: 31/12/2020  
Disclosure due date: 29/01/2021  
Disclosure date: 07/01/2021

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**Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 – Response**

We are writing with the Trust's response to your FOI request above.

**For organisational context**

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust is the largest teaching hospital trust in the South West. For more information about the Trust please see our website: <https://www.plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk/about-us> and Trust contact details are available on the website at <http://www.plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk/contact-us>.

**You asked**

The NHS England guidance has now changed and hence I am following up to collect data from University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust in with respect to the new guidance regarding Maternity Visitor Restrictions for Partners and Supporters of pregnant women.

The new guidance published 14th December 2020

(<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/12/C0961-Supporting-pregnant-women-using-maternity-services-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic-actions-for-NHS-provi.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1rVUbhLpwprwrYnQasow7f0BPbcRB3S7xrh4VRGU7J>)

[RnRTfGNPxrY ws](#)) requests NHS trust's to perform 3 key actions in section 13.

- Undertake risk assessments.
- Make changes to space configuration, PPE, etc... to accommodate partners and supporters in attending ALL maternity appointments.
- Use your available testing capacity to test women and their support people to help mitigate infection risks.

My request specifically with regards to Freedom of Information is:

- 1) **Did the hospital undertake risk assessments as a result of the new guidance? If so please can you provide a copy of the risk assessment produced?**

Yes: Please find a copy of the risk assessments attached. Please refer to the legal notes below for notes about redactions.

- 2) **My wife was informed via email from the Acting Head of Midwifery and Head of Nursing for Women's and Children's Services that a meeting was held with estates recently to discuss adjustments to allow partners and supporters to attend appointments. What was the outcome of this meeting? Please can you provide meeting minutes for this discussion?**

There was an informal walk-around review of the Maternity Outpatient areas on 31 December 2020 with the Director of Estates & Facilities and the Matron responsible for these services. As such, there were no minutes from this meeting; however, the record of the actions was recorded by email as:

1. Review the Maternity Entrance to see if we can convert the Care Group office and the Vending area into a temporary waiting area. I will ask one of the team to mark up some plans with what we think we could get in here in terms of compliant seating.
2. Look at what options we have of moving Prepping from the Maternity Seminar Room so that this could form additional waiting space. This may rely on the Trust taking out an additional lease on a building away from the site, and so won't be a quick or easy solution.
3. Review the plans for each of the waiting areas across the Maternity OPD areas on Level 6 to see whether we can safely increase the seating numbers through changes to the layouts.
4. Review the original seating number in each waiting area in order to form a baseline for what capacity we will need to create.
5. Look at "call bell" systems that could link the Level 5 waiting areas to the Level 6 Departments.

In general there are limited options for creating additional and larger waiting areas in each of the departments without taking out clinical consultation rooms – so finding a solution on Level 5 is probably the most practicable. Failing this, then the plan will need to be rolling out the lateral flow testing as per the national guidance.

**Legal notes:**

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust is confirming in accordance with section 1 (a) of the Act that it holds the information requested and is supplying it in accordance with section 1(b), unless otherwise specified because it constitutes personal information.

Please find the answers to your questions noting that we have removed a staff details from the attachment. Our approach avoids a breach of the first two Data Protection Act principles and the general right to object to processing, whilst providing you with as much detail as possible. This is in accordance with section 40.-(2)(a) and (b) by virtue of the first and second condition.

If I can be of any further assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact me on ☎ 01752 431058.

**Attachments included:** Yes x 1

**Internal review**

Please note that if you are unhappy with this FOI response then you have the right to request that the Trust conducts an internal review. This request should preferably be by email to [plh-tr.foi-requests@nhs.net](mailto:plh-tr.foi-requests@nhs.net) or you can write to the address on the letter head. We will then arrange for an internal review of this FOI response. The Trust will also usually deal with disputes as an internal review.

Following the outcome of our internal review, if you remain dissatisfied, then you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at:

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/> Tel: 01625 545 700

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

**Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015**

Provision under both the FOI Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 does not entitle you to re-use the information without appropriate permissions. The Trust is happy for its part to allow requesters to re-use the information it supplies under these laws; except for staff contact details.

We **do not** permit the forwarding or sale of staff/departmental contact details to any other third party and a specific Re-use of Information Regulations request is required for this purpose. No individual has provided consent for this purpose and it is not legal under GDPR. Other information can be re-used in compliance with the open Government Licence terms: Please click [here](#)

If relevant, you will need the permission of other information owners. This can occur when you receive a document [that](#) is co-authored or where the ownership is with another organisation.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information, Information Governance Team  
University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust