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Louise Robinson

Our Ref: FOI/IG/7593

Thursday, 17 June 2021

Dear Louise Robinson

### Response to Request (FOI/IG/7593)

Please see the information below in response to your request received by us on 28 May 2021. Any exemptions applied to this request are indicated as appropriate/applicable.

On 01 October 2020, University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust was created through the merger of Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Where appropriate, the information provided below is separated by hospital site.

#### Information Requested:

- How many maternal request caesareans were carried out in your Trust between April 2019 and April 2020 with no other significant medical, obstetric or psychological indication?
- What were the total number of caesarean sections carried out in your Trust between April 2019 and April 2020?
- Please confirm how your Trust complies with the revised NICE guideline [NG192] in relation to Maternal Request for Caesarean Birth points 1.2.25 – 1.2.31 – published March 31 2021  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng192/chapter/Recommendations>
- Please can you provide information relating to the following questions:
  1. Do you have an explicitly stated policy not to offer Maternal Request Caesarean Sections (MRCS) in your Trust?

#### Our Response:

- 94 maternal request caesareans were carried out between April 2019 and April 2020
- In total 1258 caesareans were carried out between April 2019 and April 2020
- The Trust is fully compliant with this part of the NICE guidance. We utilise the birth choices clinic and obstetrics clinics. Women are provided written information on seeking further support.
1. No
  2. Yes. Please see attached the two Trust policies which mention Maternal Request Caesarean Sections.
  3. No
  4. No, this request can be made at any point in pregnancy
  5. The Trust normally request the patient sees two clinicians to discuss pros and cons of a maternal

2. Do you have a written guideline for Maternal Request Caesarean Sections (MRCS) in your Trust? If yes, please provide a copy of the written guideline

request lower (uterine) segment Caesarean section (LSCS). These are usually an obstetrician and a midwife at birth choices clinic.

3. Do you require a compulsory mental health appointment in order for a Caesarean Section to be offered?

4. Do you have a policy which states the number of weeks into pregnancy the decision for a Caesarean Section would be made? If yes please state number of weeks

5. Are there any other conditions which must be met in order to be offered a Maternal Request Caesarean Section in your Trust? If yes, please provide a copy of the conditions

Exemption(s) Applied:

Exemption Status:

We trust that this satisfactorily responds to your request however, if you feel it necessary, you do have the right of appeal against the response that we have provided. In the first instance, you should direct your complaint to our Information Governance Manager using the contact details provided at the top of this letter. If our internal complaints process does not resolve your concerns, you may also then submit a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office either by post to Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or by telephone on 0303 123 1113. You can also find further information regarding your rights under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the ICO website: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>.

Yours sincerely,

*Information Governance*

*Sent on Behalf of the*

**Information Governance Department**

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust