

Ref. No: 1088
Date: 19/07/2024
Subject: Transgender Maternity care

REQUEST

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust:

1a. Were all registered midwives working in maternity services required to complete mandatory training between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2024, specifically concerning the care of transgender pregnant and birthing people?

1b. What percentage of registered midwives working in maternity services have completed mandatory training around the care of transgender people between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2024?

2. What percentage of pregnant and birthing people who were admitted into your maternity services between 1 and 31 March 2024 were asked about their gender identity and which pronouns they used at any point during their care?

By “admitted,” we mean, as a day-case, any ward attendance directly linked to their pregnancy, or admission linked to birth. This includes both in-hospital and community/ home birthing where applicable.

3. Did the paperwork (paper or electronic) used within your organisation's maternity services between 1 and 31 March 2024 include gender-neutral and/ or non-cisgender/ non-hetero-typical language?

Examples of “gender-neutral and/ or non-cisgender/ non-hetero-typical” language include, but are not limited to:

- *‘Breastfeeding’ and ‘chestfeeding’*
- *‘Mother’ and ‘birthing parent’*
- *‘Father’ and ‘Second Parent’*
- *Documented pronouns on admission*

Tick which is appropriate			
No Paperwork	Some Paperwork	All Paperwork	What gender-neutral and/ or non-cisgender/ non-hetero-typical language was used?

If the paperwork (paper or electronic) contained gender-neutral and/ or non-cisgender/ non-hetero-typical language, please provide a non-completed blank copy (i.e., without patient information) or a screenshot of the paperwork if electronic to demonstrate the gender-neutral and/ or non-cisgender/ non-hetero-typical language.

RESPONSE

1a) Midwifery staff complete training in Equality and diversity as required nationally as part of their annual mandatory training. This includes aspects of care relating to transgender people. There is no stand-alone specific training to the care of transgender pregnant and birthing people.

1b) 94.93% have completed Equality & diversity training.

2) This is not asked as a routine question and therefore we can't extract data for statistics. Pregnant and birthing people who identify themselves as a gender are asked which pronouns they would like to have used and these are then indicated on the persons home page of their records.

3)

Tick which is appropriate			
No Paperwork	Some Paperwork	All Paperwork	What gender-neutral and/ or non-cisgender/ non-hetero-typical language was used?
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Response (Including refusal of request under section 12):

Section 12 of the FOIA allows a public authority to refuse a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to comply with the request. The relevant section states:

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.

where the appropriate limit is equal to 18 hours of staff time as set by the *Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004*

In determining the time limit, the Trust can only take into account

- determining whether the information is held;
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

In order to determine whether the information is held in respect of your request, the Trust would need to **review** .all paperwork, Policies, Guidelines, and SOPs in place, Time spent on determining if the information is held by the Trust -Identifying from all the maternity paperwork, patient information leaflets, guidelines, standard operating procedures and policies those that contain “gender-neutral and/ or non-cisgender/ non-hetero-typical” language. There are a large number of documents and some are very lengthy to read and check.

Calculation -The Trust has reviewed and calculated this will take in excess of 277 hours.

Advice and Assistance

Under section 16 of the FOIA, advice and assistance should be provided to allow the request to come under the appropriate limit by scaling or modifying the request.

Unable to narrow

However, as the information is so vast to provide the answer as requested it would not be easy to scale down the request in this instance, for example, to one site. As this would exceed the time allowed within the act.

Unfortunately, the Trust is unable to provide further assistance in this instance.