

Ref. No: 1063  
Date: 08/07/24  
Subject: Newborns taken into care

## REQUEST

**1.The number of newborns taken into care directly from the maternity wards within your NHS Trust over the past 5 years**

**2019**

**2020**

**2021**

**2022**

**2023**

**2.Please state whether records are kept by your Trust, copies of court orders provided by social workers for the removal of each infant.**

**3 How many live births are recorded for each year.**

**For clarity, I am requesting the data to be broken down by each individual year within this period.**

## RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

**1.The number of newborns taken into care directly from the maternity wards within your NHS Trust over the past 5 years**

**2019**

**2020**

**2021**

**2022**

**2023**

### Southport and Ormskirk response

2019	>5
2020	<5
2021	<5
2022	<5
2023	10

### Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

### St.Helens and Knowsley response

We don't collate this specific information as we don't report on this.

## **2.Please state whether records are kept by your Trust, copies of court orders provided by social workers for the removal of each infant.**

### Southport and Ormskirk response

We do not receive copies of court orders

### St.Helens and Knowsley response

We don't receive a copy of the court orders

## **3 How many live births are recorded for each year.**

**For clarity, I am requesting the data to be broken down by each individual year within this period.**

### Southport and Ormskirk response

2019	2305
2020	2194
2021	2288
2022	2310
2023	2000

St.Helens and Knowsley response

2019	3944
2020	3813
2021	3896
2022	3861
2023	3749