

Ref. No: 0570
Date: 10/01/24
Subject: Induction of Labour

REQUEST

I would like to request the following information:

1. Number of births in 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23.
2. Number of inductions in 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23.
3. Number of Datix mentioning delays in induction in 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23.
4. Number of “maternity red flag events” recorded in which there was a delay of 2 hours or more between admission for induction and beginning of the process in 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23.

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 1st 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. Number of births in 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23.

St Helens and Knowsley:

Financial Year	No. Births
2019/20	3,982
2020/21	3,738
2021/22	3,995
2022/23	3,770

Southport and Ormskirk:

Financial Year	No. Births
2019/20	2,339

2020/21	2,095
2021/22	2,395
2022/23	2,214

2. Number of inductions in 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23.

St Helens and Knowsley:

Financial Year	No. Inductions
2019/20	1,207
2020/21	1,185
2021/22	1,299
2022/23	1,315

Southport and Ormskirk:

Financial Year	No. Inductions
2019/20	1,046
2020/21	861
2021/22	1,018
2022/23	912

3. Number of Datix mentioning delays in induction in 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23.

St Helens and Knowsley:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of delays in induction	7	6	16	12

Southport and Ormskirk:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of delays in induction	10	<5	<5	<5

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.

4. Number of “maternity red flag events” recorded in which there was a delay of 2 hours or more between admission for induction and beginning of the process in 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23.

St Helens and Knowsley:

Financial Year	No. Red Flags*
2019/20	22
2020/21	11
2021/22	26
2022/23	<5
*where there was a delay of 2 or more hours between admission and commencing induction of labour.	

Section 40: personal information

Please note <5 has been added where the number of individuals is 5 or less, this information has been redacted to protect the confidentiality of individuals and to ensure they cannot be identified.

Southport and Ormskirk:

Financial Year	No. Red Flags*
2019/20	14
2020/21	6
2021/22	11
2022/23	23
*where there was a delay of 2 or more hours between admission and commencing induction of labour.	