Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

Email: foi.tsdft@nhs.net
Our Ref: TSD10342

6 November 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for Information

We are writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested.

A copy of the information is below:

I am requesting the following information for the period 01 January 2023 to present. Please provide the data broken down by calendar year and by hospital site within the Trust.

1) **For each year and hospital site, please provide:**

a) **The total number of births.**

Calendar Year	The total number of births.
2023	1724
2024	1702
2025	1744
2026 to date	1498

b) **The total number of stillbirths.**

Calendar Year	The total number of births.
2023	0
2024	<5
2025	5
2026 to date	<5

c) **The total number of neonatal deaths (defined as deaths within 28 days of birth) occurring within the Trust's maternity services.**
The Trust is withholding the information requested in questions c, d and e under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Although these questions concern neonatal deaths, the information also relates to living mothers. Given the very small numbers involved and the requested breakdown by calendar year and hospital site, disclosure could enable individual mothers to be identified when combined with other information reasonably available, revealing private information and personal circumstances.
Disclosure would be unfair and would contravene the lawfulness, fairness and transparency principle in Article 5(1)(a) of the UK GDPR. The information is therefore exempt under section 40(2), read with section 40(3A)(a). This is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test.

d) **Of those neonatal deaths, the number reported to the Coroner by the Trust.**
As above

e) **For neonatal deaths not reported to the Coroner, the primary recorded cause of death.**
As above

Where small numbers could risk identification, I am content for causes of death to be grouped into high-level categories (for example: prematurity-related, congenital anomaly, cause not known, hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy, infection etc.).

Where there are less than 5, we are unable to provide the exact information you require as this may enable the identification of our employees, members of the public or patients. This would constitute personal information and would be considered exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40 (FOI Act) provides an exemption to disclosure, where disclosure would contravene any of the Data Protection principles. This exemption is an absolute exemption that is not subject to the public interest test. Where the information relates to an individual who can be identified from that data, or from that data when added to other information, in the possession of, or likely to come into the possession of the data controller, this meets the definition of personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact us, quoting the FOI reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have handled your request, please contact the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Lead in the first instance. If you wish to make a formal complaint, you should write to our Complaints Manager at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, First Floor Bowyer Building, Torbay Hospital, Torquay TQ2 7AA or by email to tsdft.feedback@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only make a decision once you have exhausted the complaints and/or internal review process provided by us. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through this link https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team