Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

Email: tsdft.foirequests@nhs.net
Our Ref: TSD10610

21 October 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:

Please provide the following information for maternity services at your Trust for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

If full-year 2025 data is not yet available, please provide the latest available 2025 year-to-date data and state the period covered.

1. Number of maternity red flag events

Please provide the total number of maternity red flag events recorded during the period, broken down by:

- **Ward or unit name**
- **Category or type of red flag event, using the categories recorded by the Trust**

For clarity, I am referring to red flag events as described in NICE safe midwifery staffing guidance, including events recorded as part of maternity staffing exception reporting.

Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

Labour Ward

Number of Red Flags recorded, 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Red Flags	Breakdown of Red Flags	Times occurred
RF1	Delayed or cancelled time critical activity	<5
RF2	Missed or delayed care	9
RF3	Missed medication during an admission to hospital or midwifery-led unit (for example, diabetes medication)	0
RF4	Delay in providing pain relief	0
RF5	Delay between presentation and assessment	5
RF6	Full clinical examination not carried out when presenting in labour	0
RF7	Delay of 2 or more hours between admission for induction and beginning of process	18
RF8	Delayed recognition of and action on abnormal vital signs (for example, sepsis or urine output)	0
RF9	Any occasion when 1 midwife is not able to provide continuous one-to-one care and support to a woman during established labour	<5
RF10	Unable to facilitate out of hospital birth	17
RF11	Coordinator unable to maintain supernumerary status- providing 1:1 care in Labour	9
RF12	Coordinator unable to maintain supernumerary status - Not providing 1:1 care	26
TOTAL		91

Low Numbers:

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.

2. Categories / definitions used

Please provide the list of red flag event categories used by the Trust during the period, including any definitions or descriptions used internally for recording or reporting purposes.

Red Flags	Breakdown of Red Flags
RF1	Delayed or cancelled time critical activity
RF2	Missed or delayed care
RF3	Missed medication during an admission to hospital or midwifery-led unit (for example, diabetes medication)
RF4	Delay in providing pain relief
RF5	Delay between presentation and assessment
RF6	Full clinical examination not carried out when presenting in labour
RF7	Delay of 2 or more hours between admission for induction and beginning of process
RF8	Delayed recognition of and action on abnormal vital signs (for example, sepsis or urine output)
RF9	Any occasion when 1 midwife is not able to provide continuous one-to-one care and support to a woman during established labour
RF10	Unable to facilitate out of hospital birth
RF11	Coordinator unable to maintain supernumerary status- providing 1:1 care in Labour
RF12	Coordinator unable to maintain supernumerary status - Not providing 1:1 care

3. **Escalation**

Please also provide the following for the same time period if available:

- **The dates of any periods when any maternity unit within your Trust closed due to staffing pressures. Please include the start and end date/time.**

- **The dates of any periods when any maternity unit within your Trust was operating under escalation due to staffing or capacity pressures. Please include the relevant escalation level and start and end date/time.**

During 2025, no maternity unit within the Trust closed because of staffing pressures.

In relation to periods when maternity units were operating under escalation due to staffing or capacity pressures, this information is recorded within paper-based records and is not held in a format that can be electronically searched or reported. To identify and collate all relevant escalation periods for the requested timeframe would require a manual review of a substantial volume of records. The Trust estimates that the time required to locate, retrieve and extract this information would exceed the appropriate limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is 18 hours of work for NHS organisations. The Trust is therefore unable to provide this information.

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