

<b>File reference</b>	W17F422
<b>Key words</b>	Neo-natal deaths and SUIs
<b>Date of release</b>	01/09/2017
<b>Attachments</b>	Yes

## Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log - Reply Extract

You asked

**For the past three financial year (2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17) please can you provide me from the trust's maternity department (or departments if covering more than one acute medical facility):**

- 1. The number of births, number of neonatal deaths and number of serious untoward incidents within the department.**

The number of births and deaths can be located in the table in question 4.

Serious Untoward Incidents (SUI) are now called Serious Incidents Requiring Investigation (SIRI). Incidents do not imply that any wrongdoing has occurred, only that an event matches the national criteria where investigation is required.

Your term "Within the department" is open to interpretation. The Trust in providing these figures has concluded that "within the department" means that the mother/s and unborn baby/ies are in our care. That care might occur within a community or hospital setting. Our involvement may result from complex care needs or because emergency intervention is required.

The figures we are providing should not be compared with other organisations' returns unless reflecting the same criteria.

Financial year	SIRI (Please note that criteria changes occur and influence the reported figures – e.g. SUI to SIRI in timeframe)
2014-15	24
2015-16	12
2016-17	7

- 2. How many investigations were undertaken by the trust into deaths and SUIs in the department?**

With due regard for the criteria and context described in our response to question one, all SIRI events are investigated when something happens that fits the Strategic Executive Information System (STEIS) criteria. STEIS is

described here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2015/01/how-to-guide-ss-at-incident-reporting.pdf>

The response provided reflects any deaths occurring whilst under our Maternity department's care. This may include deaths that occurred prior to our organisation's involvement, but confirmed by us on examination. It does not include deaths that might have occurred whilst under the care of any other healthcare provider.

Please find the answers to your questions, noting that we have redacted the data set where numbers are five or fewer. This avoids a breach of the first two Data Protection Act principles. This is in accordance with section 40.-(2)(a) and (b) by virtue of section 40.-(3)(a)(i), the personal information exemption as described in the Freedom of Information Act. A detailed rationale is provided in the attached document L3. Additionally we have applied section 41.-(1) -Information provided in confidence. This protects a deceased person's information when the Data Protection Act no longer applies. On balance, this case satisfies our duty not to share it in a raw format.

2014-15 = Five or fewer
2015-16 = Five or fewer
2016-17 = Five or fewer

**3. How many delivering mothers or new-born children (within one week of birth) were relayed to another hospital by the department due to complications or the need for specialist treatment?**

Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust does not offer neonatal surgery, general or cardiac therefore, babies are referred to Bristol or Southampton following birth if surgery is required.

There have been no women requiring treatment at another hospital in this timeframe.

**4. For the last financial year only can you please provide me with redacted copies of all investigation reports made by the trust after neonatal deaths and SUIs.**

We will not provide redacted copies of investigation reports for neonatal deaths in the last financial year. This is because the information is personal. Its disclose it would breach a number of data protection principles or in the case of the deceased person breach information provided in confidence principles and could be a actionable breach of confidence.

As such this information is considered exempt from supply in accordance with section 41.-(1) (a) and (b) – information provided in confidence and also for living persons exempt from supply in accordance with section 40.-(2)(a) and(b) and 40.-(3)(a)(i) and (ii) and (b) are satisfied.

Please be aware that NICU at Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust is the tertiary referral centre for the Peninsula, that is Devon and Cornwall.

We can provide redacted perinatal mortality statistics for the years 2014 to 2016/17.

	2014	2015- 2016	2016- 2017
Total births	4549	4569	4179
Live births	4515	4553	4158
Stillbirths	34	16	20
Early neonatal deaths	10	11	11
Perinatal deaths	45	27	31
Total neonatal deaths	14	15	16
Stillbirth Rate	7.5	Five or fewer	Five or fewer
Perinatal Mortality Rate	9.7	5.9	7.4
Neonatal Mortality Rate	Five or fewer	Five or fewer	Five or fewer

**Attachments included:** Yes L3