

File reference	W18FOI655
Key words	Child hospital admissions due to an uncertain medical status
Date of release	21/03/2019
Attachments	No

Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log - Reply Extract

You asked

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like information regarding admissions to your hospital relating children between 0-6 months who arrive to the hospital with an uncertain medical status in the last 5 years (2018/2017/2016/2015/2014)

I would like to request the following information about how many babies from 0 to 6 months of age entered A&E with an unknown medical status. Also, I would like to know how many of them, after the proper exams or the medical test (x-rays or scanners), the medical staff discovers that the child has significant and numerous fractures, bruises or broken bones in their body, which are the result of non-accidental injuries and abuse by parents.

I also want to know in how many of these cases the parents are arrested and placed in police custody accused of abuse of their child, and how many of these children have been sent to foster care. If possible, I want to obtain a copy of the hospital's procedure model in cases where the parents are suspected of abuse.

Please break down the information by years if it possible and in an electronic format PDF or excel.

The Trust does not have a clinical coding that allows us to identify "Uncertain medical status" and not all patients that attract a safeguarding alert are admitted or come to our attention via our Emergency Department.

This prevents us from answering the questions you have asked relating to our unknown/uncertain medical status.

In compliance with section 16 we can advise you:

- That we do collate numbers of children referred to the internal safeguarding team as a whole, but not specifically relating children between 0-6 months who arrive to the hospital with an uncertain medical status.
- Regarding the number of parents arrested / taken into Police Custody; such information would be collated by the Police and not by the Trust. Devon and Cornwall Police may be able to provide some general statistical information.
- The number of children placed in foster care is not recorded by us. You can approach local Council Authorities for general information about foster care placements.

The Trust's safeguarding guidance is published on the Trust website and we participate in the Safeguarding Board and their guidance is published on the Plymouth City Council website. Information accessible by other means is exempt from further supply in accordance with section 21.-(1) of the Act. Please find the hyperlinks: <https://www.plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk/trust-policies> and <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/childrensocialcare>

Attachments included: No