

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 23-049**

31 January 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we hold some of the information you are requesting

**1. How many pregnant women have had the Cook cervical Ripening Balloon induction since it was introduced at St. Michael's Hospital, Bristol?**

Between November 2021 - April 2022: there were 2,339 births in University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust. Of these, 619 women (27%) had their labour induced. Of the women who were induced, 369 cervical ripening balloons were inserted (average 59%).

**2. After the Cook Balloon induction how many women were diagnosed with an infection since January 2022?**

This data is not routinely collected. However, between November 2021 - April 2022, of women who had their labour induced with a cervical ripening balloon, 54 women were diagnosed with sepsis (14%). Given the multiple causes of maternal infection, we are unable to comment further on whether the presence of sepsis was linked to the induction agent.

**3. After the Propess induction, how many women were diagnosed with an infection?**

We do not hold this information - this data is not routinely collected.

**4. After the prostaglandin gel induction, how many women were diagnosed with an infection since January 2022?**

We do not hold this information - this data is not routinely collected.

**5. After the Cook Cervical Ripening Balloon induction, how many women had to have an emergency caesarean section?**

Between November 2021 - April 2022 and when comparing baseline audits undertaken in February and March 2021 before implementation of mechanical induction of labour, our mode of delivery is similar for all women having an IOL in UHBW. Of the women who had their labour induced with a cervical ripening balloon during the audit period, 129 (35%) required delivery by emergency caesarean section.

**6. Is the Trust planning on undertaking an audit or review of the balloon induction method over the next 12 months**

Yes, a task and finish group has been set up to ensure robust review and ongoing development of our induction of labour service. As part of implementation of Badger Maternity (a digital maternity system across Bristol) we plan to introduce the ability to more easily audit our outcome data and hope to share this with our patients.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer  
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust**