

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 20-381

27 August 2020

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 do hold the information you are requesting.

- 1. During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic have you introduced new policies or practices to any of your services relating to maternity care (antenatal, intrapartum, postnatal) which either restrict or completely prohibit partners/parents/birth partners (referred to as 'partners' from now on) attending planned or unplanned care because of COVID-19? (Y/N).**

Yes.

If yes, please go to Q2. If no, please go to Q6.

- 2. If restrictions have been introduced, please provide brief details of the policy (e.g. number of partners allowed to attend, length of time partners are allowed to attend for) in the relevant section(s) of the table below.**

Type of service	Brief details of any restriction(s) introduced (e.g. partners banned altogether; restricted number of hours partners can attend for; or other relevant policy details).
Antenatal scans	Partners are only able to attend dating scans, scans in Fetal Medicine or Early pregnancy.
Antenatal routine care (e.g. midwife appointments)	Partners are not able to attend.
Antenatal, non-routine care (e.g. assessment for reduced foetal movements)	Partners are not able to attend.
Admission for induction of labour or latent phase of labour	Partners are not able to attend.
Intrapartum care - homebirth	A single partner only
Intrapartum care - freestanding midwifery led unit	A single partner only

Intrapartum care – alongside midwifery led unit	A single partner only
Intrapartum care – consultant led unit	A single partner only
Intrapartum care – delivery in theatre	A single partner only - unless there is General Anaesthesia
Postnatal care – post birth and on the postnatal ward	A single partner only for two hours maximum between 15:00 and 17:00
Community postnatal clinics	Partners are not able to attend.

3. Do restrictions in place, or related policies/practice, include provision for extenuating circumstances (e.g. mental health conditions, disabilities, pre-term birth, or following deliveries with complications) (Y/N).

If yes please provide brief details.

Where women have extenuating circumstances arrangements can be made and agreed with the Matron on a case by case scenario.

4. Please indicate (Y/N) whether the restrictions detailed above were informed by:

- **Guidance issued by a professional body (please detail which body):** Yes RCOG/RCM.
- **Engagement with service users:** Yes, user feedback through Maternity Voices Partnership.
- **Other (please provide brief details):** Chief Midwifery Officer for England.

5. Are these restrictions still in place (Y/N)? If not, please provide the date/an estimate of the date when they were removed.

Yes they are still in place.

6. Please provide details of any firm plans in place to introduce new restrictions on partner attendance at maternity services (e.g. in the event of a local lockdown, in the event of a major 2nd wave).

The Trust would need to review at the time.

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:

Director of Corporate Governance
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