

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 22-725

28 December 2022

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

Question		Response
1	Please provide the names of each hospital in your Trust providing consultant-led maternity services and state if they provide tertiary or secondary maternity care	St Michael's Hospital – tertiary care Weston General Hospital – secondary care
2	Please provide the names of any of the hospitals in question 1 who also currently provide a Pre-Pregnancy Counselling (PPC) clinic for women with medical illnesses. If you do not provide PPC clinic please go on to question 4	St Michael's Hospital
3	For each hospital in question 2, please state whether the PPC clinics are for all medical diseases or only specific ones (if specific please list)	Cardiac, haematology, gastro, rheumatology, hepatology, cystic fibrosis, respiratory, epilepsy
4	Do the maternity managers in your Trust consider there is a need for PPC clinics for women with medical illnesses to be provided by their consultant-led units?	Yes
5	What are the main barriers to implementation of PPC clinics in your organisation?	We are unable to offer more than the current small number of appointment slots each year because pre-pregnancy counselling has not been commissioned and it is not part of the maternity pathway, and therefore there is a funding issue.

		We are also currently in a block contract following Covid and cannot generate income to cover the cost of the clinic through the gynaecology tariff.
6	What are the main enablers to implementation of PPC clinics in your organisation?	Appropriate commissioning and funding Consultants with time/appropriate skill set to run the clinics
7	If you provide PPC clinics:	
	a. how are they funded? (e.g. gynaecology encounter, medical speciality encounter, +/- recharge to maternity etc)	As a gynaecology appointment currently – though limited to 19/20 levels as funded as block
	b. Are they run by a single clinician? If yes, what is the clinician's speciality?	Yes – Consultant Obstetrician with sub-specialism in maternal medicine
	c. Are the PPC clinics run jointly by multiple clinicians? If yes, what are the specialities of the clinicians?	Yes – cardiac and haematology. No for others.
8	If you do not currently provide PPC clinics for women with medical diseases, are you planning to provide them in the future?	We would like to expand our offering and capacity as part of a formally commissioned and funded service
	Please provide any other relevant information about your pre-pregnancy counselling services not covered above	None noted.

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