

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 25-676**

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

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

**I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:**

**1. Does your Trust collect information on disability (as defined as a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010) from women/birthing people receiving maternity care?**

Yes

**2. If the answer to question 1 is "yes," please provide a transcript of the specific question(s) asked to women/birthing people regarding their disability.**

Please see below:

### Communication and Mobility

Speech or Hearing Problems	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Congenital deafness
	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquired deafness	<input type="checkbox"/> Dysphasia
	<input type="checkbox"/> Impaired hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other speech or hearing problem
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Method of Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Lip reads	<input type="checkbox"/> British sign language
	<input type="checkbox"/> Makaton sign language	<input type="checkbox"/> Deafblind intervener
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deafblind manual alphabet	<input type="checkbox"/> Uses communication device
	<input type="checkbox"/> Uses hearing loop	<input type="checkbox"/> Uses hearing aid
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cued speech transliterator	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech to text reporter
	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic note taker	<input type="checkbox"/> Lipspeaker
	<input type="checkbox"/> Manual note taker	<input type="checkbox"/> Telecommunications device for the deaf
	<input type="checkbox"/> Aphasia-friendly communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Uses gestures for communication
	<input type="checkbox"/> Preferred method is BSL	<input type="checkbox"/> Preferred method is in writing
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other sign language	<input type="checkbox"/> Other method of communication
Sign Interpreter Required	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

**3. Through what method(s) does your Trust collect information on disability from women/birthing people receiving maternity care? (e.g., paper form, electronic questionnaire, during a verbal consultation, etc.)**

Digital Maternity Information System, electronic questionnaire, and face to face consultations. We can provide documentation on paper formats as well if preferred/requested to support any additional needs.

**4. For the method(s) identified in question 3, please specify when in the maternity care pathway this information is typically collected (e.g., at the booking appointment, at every visit, etc.).**

Initial information is collected at the first appointment with the midwife (booking appointment) and then reviewed at every care contact.

**5. If the Trust's system for collecting this information is electronic, please state the name of the system and/or software used.**

BadgerNet Maternity

**6. Please provide any recorded policies, procedures, or guidance documents that instruct staff on how to use disability information to accommodate the individual needs of women/birthing people in maternity care.**

These are standard questions within the maternity system and not an additional process for staff to follow.

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**