

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7405

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## **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Maternity services restrictions on partner attendance during COVID-19.

*You asked:*

- 1. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a partner present at antenatal appointments?*
- 2. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a partner present at scans?*
- 3. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a birthing partner present during labour? If so, at what point and how many?*
- 4. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a birthing partner present during birth? If so, at what point and how many?*
- 5. Has the Covid Pandemic resulted in the Trust having to reduce the number of partners present at appointments, scans, labour or birth in the last two years? If so, has this yet returned to pre-pandemic procedure?*

Trust response:

1. Pregnant patients are able to bring a birth partner with them to antenatal appointments.
2. Pregnant patients are able to bring a birth partner with them to ultrasound scans.
3. Pregnant patients are able to have a birth partner present during labour. They are able to nominate two birth partners to be with them during their labour on admission to Delivery Suite or Birth Centre.
4. Pregnant patients are able to have a birth partner present during labour and birth. This may be up to two nominated birth partners.
5. During the peak of the pandemic, pregnant patients were able to nominate one birth partner to be present during labour and birth. Birth partners were not able to attend outpatient appointment or scans during the pandemic to reduce

the footfall within hospitals and facilitate social distancing within the clinical environment. This has subsequently reverted back to pre-pandemic guidance.