

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 8335

Please reply to:
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09 August 2023

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 tongue tie in babies.

You asked:

Please see below a request for the following information relating to tongue tie in babies aged 0-12 months.

- 1. How many babies were born within your trust between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*
- 2. How many babies were diagnosed with ankyloglossia (tongue tie) between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31 2022 at your trust?*
- 3. On average how many days after birth was a tongue tie diagnosis made between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*
- 4. How many babies diagnosed with tongue tie were referred for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*
- 5. Is the frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) available to babies who are fully formula fed?*
- 6. How many frenotomy procedures (tongue tie division) were carried out on babies at your trust between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*
- 7. What was the average waiting time in days between diagnosis/ referral and a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*
- 8. How many women had to wait 3 weeks or longer after a referral for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) or their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*
- 9. How many women waited more than 6 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks and 16 weeks or longer for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) for their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

10. *What is the longest amount of time a woman had to wait after a referral for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) for their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

11. *If there is no tongue tie division service in your trust how many referrals were made to an alternative NHS Service for tongue tie division?*

12. *How many women declined the offer of a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) within the NHS between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?*

13. *Of the women who declined the offer of a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) within the NHS between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022 are you aware how many sought treatment privately instead?*

Trust response:

Please note: Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) does not have its own independent assessment and referral process, so we are unable to give you detailed information for 2022. MTW's referral process is as follows:

- Tongue tie/feeding issues suspected
- Referral made to Kent Community Health Foundation Trust (KCHFT) Specialist Infant Feeding Service. This service cover MTW, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, and Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.
- Appointment arranged by KCHFT for Lactation Consultant support
- If tongue tie diagnosed/suspected, referral to the KCHFT Tongue Tie Team
- KCHFT Tongue Tie Team makes appointments for MTW clinics
- Clinic emailed over to MTW between 1-7 days of appointment date.

1. 5664 babies were born within MTW Trust in 2022

2. We do not have this information. During this period babies from MTW Trust were referred to other Trusts for frenulotomies.

3. We do not have this information. Please see above

4. We do not have this information. Please see above

5. Yes, it is available for babies that are fully formula fed.

6. 136

7. We do not have this information.

8. We do not have this information. Please see above

9. We do not have this information. Please see above

10. We do not have this information. Please see above

11. Referrals were made to KCHFT and procedures were performed in East Kent Hospitals and at King's Hospital. We do not have the information on the number of referrals.

12. We do not have this information.

13. We do not have this information.