



Resolution

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FOI_4713

The following information was requested on 24 July 2020:

I have taken a close look at NHSR's maternity incentive scheme. At first sight, it is progressing really well, with 75 (57%) of the 132 participating acute trusts achieving ten out of ten required actions in year one, and 116 trusts (88%) achieving this goal in year two. The real testing questions for this scheme designed to reduce clinical negligence harm to patients are:

(a) How much costs have been incurred by NHSR and the other arm's length central bodies in the initial development and subsequent amendments to this scheme, together with the annual running costs of the scheme in each year.

(b) How much resources have been expended by 132 trusts in examining the demands of all ten actions and what work is required to pass on the ten actions. Once the scheme is up and running, each trust must organise the operations, controls and the reporting to the maternity management team and the trust board at the required intervals.

(c) What is the evidence NHSR has advanced to justify the reduction in harm to patients as related to the ten actions central to this scheme and what is the value of harm prevented from occurring?

The value of the reduction in harm can be expressed in terms of this formula: Saving in harm = (c) - (a + b). Have you got any indicative answers to questions (a), (b) and (c) for the first 2 years of the scheme, so that we can all see the efficacy of this scheme to date?

Our Response

Please note the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) governs requests for recorded information held by public authorities. The Act does not require public authorities to create new information in response to requests but to provide what is recorded and held unless an exemption under the Act applies.

With regards to your request for information please note we do not hold any recorded information that would answer your questions.

Our Chief Executive, Helen Vernon wrote to you on 8 July 2020 and explained:

“By rewarding trusts who meet ten safety actions, our Maternity Incentive Scheme has driven significant improvements in the quality of reporting and an uptake in registration for best practice tools. This means that births are being monitored more effectively, issues identified sooner and learning is shared more rapidly across the NHS. Ultimately, we hope that this will reduce harm and claims.

I understand the points that you made about the staffing of NHS maternity services. NHS Resolution has only a limited role in this area. Nonetheless, the third safety action of the Maternity Incentive Scheme – already mentioned – is to ‘demonstrate an effective system of clinical workforce planning to the required standard’.

I hope this has helped answer some of your questions and I will forward your correspondence to the Department of Health and Social Care who may wish to respond further.”

We would also refer you to the published interim evaluation of the Maternity Incentive Scheme for further information: <https://resolution.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Maternity-Incentive-Scheme-evaluation-report.pdf>

We do not have any further comments to make that would meet your request for information.

Further to our obligations to provide advice and assistance, you may find it helpful to review the work of the [Getting It Right First Time team](#) with whom NHS Resolution has been working with to undertake in-depth analysis of our claims data. They have produced a number of [reports](#) from analysing our claims data which has been shared following approval of the confidentiality advisory group to the use of confidential patient information for this purpose.

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are not satisfied with the service that you have received in response to your information request, it is open to you to make a complaint and request a formal review of our decisions. If you choose to do this, you should write to [Tinku Mitra](#), Head of Corporate and Information Governance for NHS Resolution, within 28 days of your receipt of this reply. Reviews of decisions made in relation to information requests are carried out by a person who was not involved in the original decision-making about the request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of the decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the local complaints procedure. The address of the Information Commissioner’s Office is:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
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