

13 March 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request regarding SI reports relating to maternal deaths.

The Trust can provide the following information:

Please can you send me the serious incident reports into the five maternal deaths that have occurred over the past 18 months. Please can you anonymise the reports so that privacy issues are addressed.

The Trust is unable to respond to your request as the requested information is exempt under section 40 of the FOI act where the disclosure of third party information would contravene the data protection principles contained in the Data Protection Act 1998.

This exemption applies because supplying this information may allow you to identify the individuals concerned as there are so few of them within this category, therefore you have requested personal information relating to a third party (that is, someone other than yourself).

Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act effectively prohibits the release of personal information if doing so would breach the principles in the Data Protection Act 1998. We have a statutory duty under Section 4 (4) of the Data Protection Act 1998 – “to comply with the data protection principles in relation to all personal data”.

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at foi@homerton.nhs.uk, in the first instance. If, following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

Incorporating hospital and community health services, teaching and research

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