



# Western Health and Social Care Trust

25 February 2013

Ms Amber Marshall  
33 Hallewell Road  
Birmingham  
B16 0LP

[email:thebiggestbirtha@gmail.com]

Dear Ms. Marshall

## Freedom of Information (FOI) request – our ref FOI/13/017 – Maternity services and high BMI, Western Health and Social Care Trust

I refer to your request for information which was received by the Western Health & Social Care Trust on 24 January 2013. As explained in an email sent to you on 31 January, all policies will apply to the entire Trust and we do not have specific policies for certain hospitals. This response therefore applies to Altnagelvin and Erne Hospitals as per your request. Please note that the Erne Hospital closed in June 2012 when the new South West Acute Hospital opened.

1. *Do you have a policy for the management of obese women? If so, what is the BMI cut off (or other criteria) where this policy comes into use?*

In response, we have been advised that there is no policy specific for raised BMI but it is included in the attached policies/documents. In summary we have been advised that patients with a BMI over 35 cannot follow the Low Risk Pathway nor can they deliver in the Midwife Led Unit. Patients from across the Trust with a BMI over 50 are being reviewed by an Anaesthetist at Altnagelvin Hospital.

2. *Please attach a copy of the above policy.*

Please see response to question 1 (above) and the attached documents.

3. *How many women last year or the most recent year for which you have data (both as a number and percentage of service users in each area) were subject to the above policy?*

In response, please see attached a table entitled 'Over 35 delivered Jan – Dec 2012'. This shows the number of women who have given birth in 2012 with a BMI of 35 or over. This is broken down into Altnagelvin and Erne/South West Acute Hospital sites.

Freedom of Information (FOI) Office, Administration Building,  
Altnagelvin Hospital site, Glenshane Road, Londonderry, BT47 6SB  
e-mail: [foi.request@westerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:foi.request@westerntrust.hscni.net)

4. Please could you attach any other policies/guidelines/protocols relating to fertility, maternity, childbirth and post-natal which address the management of obese women. This could include (but not be limited to):  
Inclusion/exclusion criteria for use of midwife led unit, hospital birthing pool, home birth, IVF etc.  
Glucose Tolerance Testing and Gestational Diabetes,  
Clexane prophylaxis  
Pre-Birth Anaesthetist referral  
Additional growth scans

In response, we would refer to the attached documents which you may find useful. We have been advised that the fertility protocol is per NICE guidelines.

I hope you find this information helpful. Please contact us if you have any queries about this response, quoting the above reference number in all future communication about this information request.

Yours sincerely

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**Damian Houston**  
**Information Governance Manager**

*Freedom of Information: If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have access to the Trust's FOI complaints procedure. You should write to FOI Office, Administration Building, Altnagelvin Hospital site, Glenshane Road, Londonderry BT47 6SB (foi.request@westerntrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, usually within 20 working days of receipt. If you remain unhappy, you can write to our Chief Executive, who will reconsider your complaint and respond to you, again usually within 20 working days.*

*If, after receiving a response from the Chief Executive, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's complaints procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.*

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