

Ref. No: 0175  
Date: 10/08/23  
Subject: Breastfeeding and Formula Feeding

## REQUEST

### Request for St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust only

1. Please confirm or deny if St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust has a specific policy on provision of support for all forms of infant feeding, specifically breastfeeding, formula feeding, and combination feeding.

If confirm, please provide a copy of this policy.

2. Please confirm or deny if St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust holds information on the number of infants breastfed, formula fed, and combination fed.

If confirm, please release this data.

3. Please confirm or deny if St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust provides information on all forms of infant feeding (including breastfeeding, formula feeding, and combination feeding) at the 28-week antenatal appointment as outlined in the NICE guideline NG201, post-birth before the family has been discharged and at any other times.

If confirm, please provide a copy of the information on infant feeding that is provided and confirm how as well as when it is delivered.

4. Please confirm or deny if St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust requires mothers to sign a consent form before any information or advice is given on formula feeding OR before an infant receives formula milk in the hospital instead of or alongside breastmilk.

If confirm, please publish a copy of the associated policy and corresponding form.

5. Please confirm or deny if St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust holds information on the number of babies re-admitted to

hospital due to weight loss in the first 28 days, for each of the last 5 calendar years.

If confirm, please release this data and please publish the St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust policy for addressing weight loss in babies.

## RESPONSE

1. **Please confirm or deny if St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust has a specific policy on provision of support for all forms of infant feeding, specifically breastfeeding, formula feeding, and combination feeding.**

**If confirm, please provide a copy of this policy.**

The Trust has a specific policy on provision of support for all forms of infant feeding, specifically breastfeeding, formula feeding, and combination feeding. Please find the 'Policy for Newborn Feeding' attached.

2. **Please confirm or deny if St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust holds information on the number of infants breastfed, formula fed, and combination fed.**

**If confirm, please release this data.**

We can confirm that the Infant Feeding Team analyses infant feeding data monthly, to identify initiation rates of any breastmilk feeding and formula feeding within the first 48 hours after birth, and also the continuation rates of any breastmilk feeding and formula milk feeding at the point of discharge from the maternity unit.

### Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

The Trust would need to undertake a manual review of records across the requested time period to provide a response, which we estimate would exceed the appropriate time limits.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not have to comply with a request where it is estimated that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit is specified within the regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days answering the request, either wholly or partially.

3. **Please confirm or deny if St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust provides information on all forms of infant feeding (including breastfeeding, formula feeding, and combination feeding) at the 28-week antenatal appointment as outlined in the NICE**

**guideline NG201, post-birth before the family has been discharged and at any other times.**

**If confirm, please provide a copy of the information on infant feeding that is provided and confirm how as well as when it is delivered.**

The Trust provides information on all forms of infant feeding (including breastfeeding, formula feeding, and combination feeding) via our Infant Feeding Antenatal Workshop which is accessible to women at any time during their pregnancy, but actively encouraged at or after the 28-week antenatal appointment. Additionally, all women should have an antenatal and a postnatal conversation checklist completed with regards to all aspects of infant feeding throughout their care continuum with STHK maternity services. Please find the 'Antenatal Conversations Form' and Postnatal Conversations Form' attached.

- 4. Please confirm or deny if St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust requires mothers to sign a consent form before any information or advice is given on formula feeding OR before an infant receives formula milk in the hospital instead of or alongside breastmilk.**

**If confirm, please publish a copy of the associated policy and corresponding form.**

The Trust does not require mothers to sign a consent form before any information or advice is given on formula feeding OR before an infant receives formula milk in the hospital instead of or alongside breastmilk.

- 5. Please confirm or deny if St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust holds information on the number of babies re-admitted to hospital due to weight loss in the first 28 days, for each of the last 5 calendar years.**

**If confirm, please release this data and please publish the St Helen's and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust policy for addressing weight loss in babies.**

This data is recorded on DATIX, the Trust's electronic patient safety incident tool. Please find the 'Management of Faltering Growth in Children Policy' and 'Assessment and Management of Faltering Growth in Babies and Children' documents attached.

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. Babies Re-admitted</b>
2018	11
2019	12
2020	8
2021	<5
2022	8

#### Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.