



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters

Chief Nurse

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Ref: FOI/2025/11004

Date Received: 12th August 2025

Response Due: 10th September 2025

Date: 2nd September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 12th August 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information about the maternity services provided by Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, specifically concerning the collection of disability data.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

- 1. Does your Trust collect information on disability (as defined as a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010) from women/birthing people receiving maternity care?**

Yes.

- 2. If the answer to question 1 is "yes," please provide a transcript of the specific question(s) asked to women/birthing people regarding their disability.**

Within the self-referral form for Maternity services, there is a question for "Do you have mobility, sight, hearing or other particular needs that we should be aware of to help prepare for your appointment? If so, please give details". There is also a question for "Do you have any of the following conditions?". Within this section, there is an option to include the following options 'Learning Disability'. During booking appointment, additional questions are asked, including "Do you have any physical disabilities?", options include 'Amputee', 'Blind', 'Deaf with speech', 'Deaf without speech', 'Difficulty using arms', 'Impaired mobility (using crutches/frame)', 'Paralysis', 'Partial Hearing Loss (severe)', 'Partially sighted (uncorrected by glasses)', 'Wheelchair User', and 'Other'.

3. Through what method(s) does your Trust collect information on disability from women/birthing people receiving maternity care? (e.g., paper form, electronic questionnaire, during a verbal consultation, etc.)

Initially from the electronic self-referral form completed online, then via manual input into our electronic system from the booking midwife (who gains this information through a verbal discussion).

4. For the method(s) identified in question 3, please specify when in the maternity care pathway this information is typically collected (e.g., at the booking appointment, at every visit, etc.).

Before and at the booking appointment.

5. If the Trust's system for collecting this information is electronic, please state the name of the system and/or software used.

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6. Please provide any recorded policies, procedures, or guidance documents that instruct staff on how to use disability information to accommodate the individual needs of women/birthing people in maternity care.

We have the following Trust wide policies that relate to supporting staff to care for patients with disabilities, but we do not have Maternity-specific guidance. Please see the attached.

- TW20-040 All Age Learning Disability/Autism Policy
- Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit

The Trust does have a Dignity in Care policy which is due a review therefore as this is outdated, it has not been included in the response. This will be updated in due course.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



KEVIN PARKER-EVANS

Kevin Parker-Evans MBA, FCMJ, CMgr. RN Dip HE

Chief Nursing Officer & Director of Infection Prevention and Control

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF
Helpline number: 0303 123 111