

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_281_23

You asked:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. Please see below a request for the following information relating to tongue tie in babies aged **0-12 months**.

1. How many babies were born within your trust between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?

4727.

2. How many babies were diagnosed with ankyloglossia (tongue tie) between Jan1st 2022 and December 31 2022 at your trust?

We can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally capture this information. Babies with suspected tongue tie are diagnosed and referred from a variety of departments. The information you require would be recorded within an individual patient's health record as part of their ongoing care. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

However, in order to comply with our obligation set out in section 16, to provide help and assistance, please see below data that we have available for those that have been referred to tongue tie clinics and not of those that have had further infant feeding support and not required a frenotomy.

The number of referrals is as follows:

Royal Glamorgan Hospital (RGH) - 17

Princess of Wales (POW) – 21

Prince Charles Hospital (PCH) – data from April 2022- April 2023 shows 32 referrals.

3. On average how many days after birth was a tongue tie diagnosis made between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?

As per local guidance found here wisdom.nhs.wales/a-z-guidelines/t/tongue-tie-guidance-ratified-version-march-2023-pdf/ healthcare professionals caring for mother and baby can make referrals for suspected tongue tie. Diagnosis can only be completed by the qualified professional that will carry out the frenotomy. The frenotomy providers will review a baby that has been referred for suspected tongue tie and the division will be carried out on the same day during the appointment if required.

Cwm Taff Morgannwg offer services across 3 sites; Prince Charles Hospital (PCH) Maxillofacial department, Royal Glamorgan Hospital (RGH) ENT department and Princess of Wales (POW) where there is a service level agreement with Swansea Bay University Health Board Maxillofacial department in Morriston Hospital. This means that waiting times for appointments following referral can vary, on average: PCH 1-2 working days, RGH 7-10 days and POW (SBU) 3 weeks.

4. How many babies diagnosed with tongue tie were referred for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?

Please see response to question 2.

5. Is the frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) available to babies who are fully formula fed?

NICE IPG 149 does not provide guidance for division in a bottle feeding baby. While not within the guideline, Infant Feeding Leads can discuss with Frenotomy provider if feeding is significantly affected.

6. How many frenotomy procedures (tongue tie division) were carried out on babies at your trust between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?

We can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally capture this information. Tongue tie division is mainly performed in an outpatient setting. The Health Board do not clinically code outpatient procedures and are therefore unable to confirm.

The information you require would be recorded within an individual patient's health record as part of their ongoing care. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

7. What was the average waiting time in days between diagnosis/referral and a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?

Please see response to question 6.

8. How many women had to wait 3 weeks or longer after a referral for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) or their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?

Please see response to question 6.

9. How many women waited more than 6 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks and 16 weeks or longer for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) for their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?

Please see response to question 6.

10. What is the longest amount of time a women had to wait after a referral for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) for their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?

Please see response to question 6.

11. If there is no tongue tie division service in your trust how many referrals were made to an alternative NHS Service for tongue tie division?

Not applicable.

12. How many women declined the offer of a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) within the NHS between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?

The Health Board does not hold this information.

13. Of the women who declined the offer of a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) within the NHS between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022 are you aware how many sought treatment privately instead?

The Health Board does not hold this information.