

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-062024-000960

Date: 02/07/2024

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

We are aware of the NHS England FASP 20 week scan guidance document. *“There is no requirement to archive images of the fetal cardiac protocol views”*. However, we are aware there is disparity amongst NHS hospital trusts nationally when congenital heart defects are not identified at this scan. We understand some hospital trusts don't retain fetal cardiac images, some do, and some retain video clips, and some retain both. There doesn't seem to be any consistency.

We have been advised by NHS England and all the ICB's that they do not hold the following information as it is “granular”. We have been advised to approach each of the acute trusts.

Our questions are;

1. When congenital heart defects ARE NOT identified during screening at the 20-week fetal anomaly scan;

a) Does your trust currently retain the fetal cardiac views?

b) Were fetal cardiac views retained in 2021 and 2022?

c) If views are currently retained, are these still images or video clips?

d) For how long has your trust had this fetal cardiac view retention policy?

Please feel free to access our online petition on Change.Org. This will provide context to our request. If you're not comfortable accessing a link from a work device, please utilise your own personal device and search “standardise fetal heart scan protocols” on the Change.Org platform. The information could be of benefit to friends or family.

https://www.change.org/Mollys_Missing_Heart_Views

Utilising the regional data in the NICOR 2023 National Congenital Heart Disease Audit, we're seeking to establish if there is any correlation between those ICS's / trusts that do not keep any records, and those ICS's / trusts which have considerably lower regional antenatal detection rates. Nobody we have approached seems to hold this information and therefore it seems there is no national co-ordination, review, or assessment of this data.

Response

We are in-line with the national screening programme FASP and no cardiac images of any sort are routinely stored with the exception of a situs view and these are kept until the child is 21 years.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**