

23 February 2026

## Postnatal Home Visits and Clinic Appointments

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

- Any data held by the Trust in each year since 1 January 2020 showing number or proportion (percentage) of early postnatal contacts (for example, from discharge to day 10 postpartum) delivered:

- As home visits, and
- As clinic or hub-based appointments.

| Year        | 2020 - 2023 | 2024  | 2025  |
|-------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Home Visits | 68729*      | 19189 | 25990 |

\*Numbers for 2020 to 2023 cannot be broken down by year. We have provided an estimate, prior to the introduction of encompass, as this information was kept in paper diaries. Post encompass implementation we have provided the data per year.

| Year          | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Clinic Visits | 235  | 301  | 336  | 367  | 311  | 239  |

- Whether postnatal home visiting is currently considered the default model of care within your Trust. If not, please advise when this position changed.

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Community Midwifery Teams default position is to offer home visiting for all postnatal contacts, which includes the contacts taking place within the first 10 days post birth.

There is an additional Consultant-led Wound Clinic, based in the hospital, into which the Community Midwifery Teams and GP's can refer.

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- 3. Whether women are routinely offered a choice between postnatal home visits and clinic-based appointments, and how this choice is communicated (for example, verbally, in writing, or through scheduled appointments).**

Women are only offered postnatal visits in their home, from their first day home and up to 28 days postnatal. The only hospital postnatal clinic option is the Wound Clinic.

- 4. Copies of any current policies, guidelines, protocols, or operational instructions relating to the provision of postnatal home visits versus clinic-based appointments.**

There are currently no policies, guidelines, protocols, or operational instructions relating to the provision of postnatal home visits versus clinic-based appointments, as postnatal clinic-based appointments are not offered in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. Providing care in the home postnatally facilitates the Community Midwife to engage with the mother, her newborn baby and family and allows her to identify any safeguarding, domestic or social work issues.

- 5. Whether an Equality Screening or Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken in relation to postnatal home visiting or clinic-based postnatal care since 1 January 2020. If so, please provide copies. If not, please confirm this.**

No Equality Screening or Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken in relation to postnatal home visiting or clinic-based postnatal care since 1 January 2020.