



University Hospitals Sussex

NHS Foundation Trust

Freedom of Information Office

C/O Company Secretary

Worthing Hospital

Lyndhurst Rd

Worthing BN11 2DH

18/05/2022

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI220085

Thank you for your recent request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

We are now in a position to respond to your request.

Your request:

1. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a partner present at antenatal appointments?
2. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a partner present at scans?
3. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a birthing partner present during labour? If so, at what point and how many?
4. Does the Trust allow pregnant women to have a birthing partner present during birth? If so, at what point and how many?
5. Has the Covid Pandemic resulted in the Trust having to reduce the number of partners present at appointments, scans, labour or birth in the last two years? If so, has this yet returned to pre-pandemic procedure?

Our response:

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Trust can confirm that it holds information relevant to your request and this has been provided where possible below.

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. Yes, two from the point at which a patient is admitted.
4. Yes, same as question 3 above.
5. In the early stages of the pandemic, partners were not permitted to attend scans or ante-natal appointments with the patient. During the pandemic the Trust reduced the number of permitted birth partners to one per patient. The Trust has now reverted to pre-pandemic protocols, as detailed above.



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If you require clarification or if we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at: UHSussex.foi@nhs.net

If after contacting us with any questions or concerns you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of your enquiry, you have the right to appeal. Complaints should be made within 40 working days of the Trust response. We are not obliged to carry out an internal review into the processing of your request after this period. If you wish to submit a complaint, please provide the basis for your appeal by emailing us or write to:

Freedom of Information Office
C/O Company Secretary
University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust
Worthing Hospital
Lyndhurst Rd,
Worthing BN11 2DH

After we have reviewed your complaint, if you are still not satisfied with the outcome of your appeal you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office. This can be done via their website - <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/> or via telephone - 0303 123 1113.

We hope you are happy with the processing of your request and find the information provided helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Office
University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust