



East London
NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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7 Alma Street
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Website: <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

20th June 2022

Our reference: FOI DA4241

Dear

I am responding to your request for information received **15 June 2022**. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Shuchi Joshi

Senior Information Governance Coordinator – Information Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention

Request:



We promise to work together creatively to: learn 'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality of life and continuously improve our services.
We care . We respect . We are inclusive

Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus
Interim Chair: Eileen Taylor

The Association of Tongue Tie Practitioners under the umbrella of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Infant Feeding and Inequalities is carrying out a survey of NHS tongue-tie services for babies. This will create a more accurate national picture of services and help in achieving improved provision of breastfeeding support. Attached is a short questionnaire. We would be grateful if you could complete this soon as possible, within the 20 days of The Freedom Of Information guidance. Your time in completing it is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about the survey or would like to discuss further, please contact Elizabeth Carter at reviewtt@yahoo.com

Question 1: What is your name and role within the trust?

(Write in)

Your name	
Role within the Trust	

Question 2: What is the name of your NHS trust?

(Write in)

East London NHS Foundation Trust

Question 3: How many babies were born in your trust in 2021?

(Write in)

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Question 4: Is there currently an NHS tongue-tie division in your trust?

(Please tick one)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed to question 7</i>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed to question 5</i>

Question 5: If there is no tongue-tie division service in your Trust, do you have a referral pathway to a service (e.g. which may be private or located in another Trust)?

(Please tick one)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed to question 6</i>
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No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Proceed to question 7

**Question 6: How many referrals were made to this service in 2021?
 (or a recent 12 month period)?**
(Write in)

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Question 7: How many babies were referred for possible division?
(Write in)

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Question 8: How many babies actually had an NHS tongue tie division in your Trust in 2021?
(Write in)

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Any comment to add?

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Question 9: Who is the service run by?
(Please tick as many as apply)

Midwives	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paediatricians	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lactation consultants	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ear Nose and Throat	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Maxillofacial	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health Visitors	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Question 10: For funding purposes what is the tongue tie release coded as?

(Write in)

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Question 11: Do you accept out-of-area referrals?

(Please tick one)

Yes	
No	
Don't know	

Question 12: What are the criteria for referral?

(Please tick as many as apply)

Weight loss /poor weight gain	
Obvious Tongue tie	
Maternal pain and nipple damage	
Slow messy bottle feeder	
Feeding for long periods and often despite breastfeeding support	

Question 13: Do you accept referrals for formula fed babies?

(Please tick one)

Yes	
No	

Question 14: Does your service divide tongue-ties described as posterior/sub-mucosal?

(Please tick one)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 15: What is the usual waiting time between referral and appointment with the tongue-tie service?

(Write in)

Question 16: What is the maximum age for babies to be referred to the service?

(Write in)

Question 17: Does your service use any specific assessment tool?

(Please tick as many as apply)

Hazelbaker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tabby	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martinelli	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clinical Judgement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 18: Is specialist breastfeeding support available for mothers and babies immediately after a tongue-tie division?

(Please tick one)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 19: What follow up do the mothers and babies have after division?

(Please tick one)

Clinic review	
Phone call or text	
None unless requested	

Question 20: When does that review occur?

(Please tick one)

Next day	
A few days	
1 week	
2 weeks	
3 weeks	
1 month	

Question 21: What aftercare is recommended?

(Please tick as many as apply)

<p>LEVEL 1 No intervention, feeding the baby as usual Other than observing for any bleeding or signs of infection no other action is taken</p>	
<p>LEVEL 2 Feeding the baby as usual and also encouraging parents to do ‘tongue exercises’ with the baby These exercises might include: Encouraging baby to suck a clean finger and withdraw the finger slowly in a ‘tug of war’ game; running a clean finger along baby’s lower gums to encourage sideways tongue movement; parent(s) sticking their tongue out at the baby to encourage the baby to mimic the action. These are detailed on the current ATP ‘Care After Tongue-Tie Division (Frenulotomy)’ leaflet.</p>	
<p>LEVEL 3 Encouraging ‘tongue lifting’ The parent is encouraged to insert either one or two of their fore fingers under the baby’s tongue, with the finger tips at each side of the wound and lifts the tongue upwards enough to stretch the wound site. Touching the wound site itself is not encouraged.</p>	
<p>LEVEL 4 Active wound management (AWM) or disruptive wound massage/management (DWM) This involves using a clean finger(s) in a ‘sweeping’, rubbing or circulate motion (massaging) across the opened wound site. Sometimes including stretching or opening the wound in addition</p>	

Question 22: In comparison to pre-COVID (March 2020) have the number of tongue tie referrals....?

(Please tick one)

...increased	<input type="checkbox"/>
... stayed the same	<input type="checkbox"/>
... decreased	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 23: In comparison to pre-COVID (March 2020) has your waiting list....?

(Please tick one)

...increased	<input type="checkbox"/>
... stayed the same	<input type="checkbox"/>
... decreased	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 24: In comparison to pre-COVID (March 2020) have your criteria for referral changed?

(Please tick one)

No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please specify	<input type="text"/>

Question 25: Has COVID had any other impact on your service?

(Please tick one)

No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please specify	<input type="text"/>

Question 26: If you would be happy to be contacted for further details about the tongue tie services in your area, please give your email address.

(Write in)

Question 27. If you have any further comments relating to this survey or tongue tie services generally, please use the box below

(Write in)

Question 28: Would you like a copy of the report when it is finished?

(Please tick one)

No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 1 – not held

Answer: Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust is primarily a Mental Health Trust and does not provide services described in the questions.
Therefore we cannot provide this information.