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17th July 2026
Internal Reference: 260640
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **19/06/2026**.
We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Please ensure you quote the Internal Reference number above in any future correspondence.

Your Request

I would like to request some information about premature baby deliveries whilst on transfer in an ambulance please. I am a Neonatologist at University Hospital Dorset and this information would be very useful when we are providing education to the maternity, obstetric and neonatal team about transferring women in threatened preterm labour from one hospital to another with a higher level of care. The staff are understandably worried that if they arrange a transfer for a woman that there is a risk that she may deliver in the ambulance on the way. This risk is necessary in order to get the woman to a hospital with the right level of care for the premature baby (as per national guidance a woman in premature labour at <27 weeks should deliver in a tertiary unit (eg Brighton, Ashford) and this will involve an ambulance transfer from their local hospital unit.

The data I would like to request is as follows from the last 5 years:

- Number of hospital-to-hospital transfers of a pregnant woman <34 weeks gestation
- Number of times a baby is delivered in the ambulance during the transfer
- Gestation (if known) of baby that delivers in ambulance

Exclusions:



- Pregnant women who were not transferred from a hospital (ie from their home or a public place)

Formal Response

Please refer to the table below:

Year	Q1a_Count of hospital-to-hospital transfers of a pregnant patient <34 weeks gestation	Q1b_Count of Q1a where the baby was delivered during the transfer	Q1c_Average gestation of the baby delivered at the time of transfer (weeks)
2022	203	24	7
2023	298	27	8
2024	339	11	6
2025	341	0	Not Applicable
2026	115	0	Not Applicable

Where the count is zero for the number of babies delivered during transfer, the average gestation at the time of delivery is not applicable.

Next steps

Some information held by the Trust is routinely published on our [website](#) and may be of assistance.

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review.

Requests for an internal review should be submitted within **40 working days** of the date of this response and should be sent to:

Richard Banks, Head of Corporate Governance at FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

The internal review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in handling your original request, ordinarily the Trust's Data Protection Officer. We aim to complete internal reviews within **20 working days** of receipt.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of the internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO generally expects complaints to be raised promptly following the completion of an internal review.

The easiest way to raise a complaint is via the ICO's website:
www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Alternatively, you may write to:



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

Yours sincerely,

Corporate Governance Team

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

