



*Protecting human rights
in childbirth*

Registered address:
Birthrights
Union House
111 New Union Street
Coventry CV1 2NT
0300 400 30 400

17th January 2020

Dear Sir Jonathan,

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's policy in respect of the provision of caesarean section at maternal request

We write to draw your attention to a letter sent to Dr Bruno Holthof, Chief Executive of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, on our behalf from Bindmans LLP dated 26th March 2019, and requesting a response by 12th April. A copy of the letter is attached. Bindmans LLP has chased a response on a number of occasions but no response has been received.

This is unfortunate because on 13th December 2018, we wrote to your predecessor regarding the fact that we had not received a response to our letter sent on 27th July 2018. We finally received a response on the 3rd January.

We continue to find the sustained lack of responsiveness of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, very concerning, and would like to understand the Board's view on the failure of the executive team to take seriously their accountability to the local population and organisations like ourselves who advocate for them.

Birthrights first wrote to the Trust in May 2017 about the lawfulness of the Trust's approach to the provision of maternal request caesarean section and its compatibility with NICE guidance and human rights law, which is a matter of grave concern to local women and to Birthrights.

Your letter of 3rd January suggested that current provision was under review and that maternal request caesarean sections could soon be offered by the John Radcliffe. We welcomed this news and wrote to you on 26th March seeking further reassurances and an update by 12th April. We are very disappointed not to have received any substantive response from you since then, particularly as accounts we have heard very recently suggest that women requesting a caesarean are still being referred to Gloucester with all the inconvenience, discomfort and anxiety this entails.

As ever, we would be happy to discuss at any point.

birthrights.org.uk
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Registered charity number 1151152
Patron: Nadine Montgomery

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We trust that your plans are moving at pace and that 31st January is a reasonable deadline to receive a long overdue response.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Prochaska,
Birthrights Chair

Cc Dr Bruno Holthof,
Annelise Dodds MP

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