

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 21 July 2023

Partially
Confidential

My name is _____ and my birth trauma occurred in June 2020 at _____ Hospital in _____
During the birth of my daughter i had an epidural, i was then taken to the operating theatre for them to trial forceps to assist my daughter out. Whilst sitting upright on the operating table my epidural was taken out and the anaesthetist was preparing to give me a spinal anaesthetic. I was asked to move higher up the operating table once my epidural was removed but no one assisted me, as i was numb from my chest down i misbalanced and fell backwards off the operating table, hitting my head on the floor and landing on my stomach.

I subsequently needed to be put under a general anaesthetic and have an emergency caesarean. I woke up alone in recovery in a neck brace and was rushed off for scans to check for any head or spinal injuries. I wasn't able to meet my daughter for 6 hours which caused a lot of anxiety as all i knew is that she was taken to NICU for breathing support.

This was an avoidable experience that caused me a lot of pain and still to this day does. I was diagnosed with PTSD around 6 months after my daughter's birth and still suffer with the symptoms to this day more than three years later. I have nightmares most nights, recurring flashbacks and struggle to leave my daughter for long periods. I lied still on that operating floor that day thinking i was going to lose my life.

I recently built up the courage to put in a complaint to the HCCC it has since been finalised.