

Submission  
No 411

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

My name is [REDACTED], I am 40 years old. I live in the [REDACTED] Area and I have 7 children aged 20, 18, 17, 9, 6, 4 and 2 weeks old. I have also suffered a loss of a child in 2012 at 22 weeks gestation.

My first child was born at [REDACTED] hospital in 2003.

My second child born in [REDACTED] hospital in 2004.

My third child born [REDACTED] hospital in 2006.

My fourth child born in [REDACTED] hospital in 2012 at 22 weeks gestation, passed away after 2 hours.

My fifth child born in [REDACTED] hospital in 2014.

My sixth child born in [REDACTED] hospital in 2017.

My seventh child born in [REDACTED] hospital in 2018.

My eighth child born at [REDACTED] hospital [REDACTED] in 2023.

Concerns regarding my latest pregnancy and birth in July 2023.

- This last pregnancy I would have to say had been the worst I'm regards to anti natal care. I found it hard to get anti natal appointments as [REDACTED] hospital said they were booked out both for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] midwife and doctor appointments. Because of this I was unable to get the proper care and check ups needed which are crucial especially for a woman with several high risks such as AMA, GDM, 3 previous PPH, previous pregnancy loss, eighth pregnancy.

I had only seen the midwives 3 times and doctor once due to the lack of appointments available and the understaffing.

I was told at 36 weeks that I needed to go to [REDACTED] to have my baby as the risks were too high for me to have my baby in [REDACTED] and I would need to deliver by 38 weeks.

- The communication between [REDACTED] hospital and [REDACTED] was very poor. When I arrived for my first appointment [REDACTED] didn't have all of my medical information or ultrasounds.

This was a very stressful time as [REDACTED] told me I should stay in [REDACTED] as it would be dangerous if I were to go into labour here but [REDACTED] sent me home. Travelling to and from at such a late stage of pregnancy and with all my risks was very scary too. It was emotionally, physically and financially draining. It was especially hard to have to leave my other young children in [REDACTED] with my family, I have never been apart from my children as much as I recently had to.

Also I was left to organise accommodation myself. I had one hospital telling me to stay in [REDACTED] and the other saying it was ok to go home and keep coming back every few days.

- My stress levels only increased when a doctor at [REDACTED] Hospital told me that both me and my baby could die, the baby could get stuck and they may have to break baby's bones to get it out, and the baby could end up having cerebral palsy. I don't have words to describe exactly how devastatingly painful and emotionally stressful this was for me to hear. The thought of me losing my baby, my children losing their mother or them breaking my baby's bones or anything else being wrong with my baby was absolutely terrifying. I cried so much for days on end and those thoughts kept running through my head over and over and it was horrific.

- My induction was scheduled and I was called in to start the induction on Saturday at 2pm.

However I was left for hours on end without any start to induction as they were short staffed at [REDACTED] Hospital too.

It wasn't until after 3 painful attempts of inserting ballon the next day after midnight that I was put into birthing room. I had not had the ballon method of induction before and I asked for the gel or something else as this was extremely painful and I didn't want to try it again after the first time but the doctors insisted my induction start with the balloon. I needed the gas by the third attempt which normally I don't have until late I to my labour.

I was left in the birthing room with no monitoring. The ballon came out by itself after 12 hours at 12:30pm Sunday. I called for the nurse and was told they would break my waters soon. I had a painful vaginal examination which again I needed gas for to help cope and was told I was 3cm. There was a shift change and the midwives said they would wake me at 5am to break my waters the next day. The nurse came in at 7:30am and put the CTG motion on but was called out of the room shortly after so again I was left for hours until my waters were finally broken at around 12pm.

While they were breaking my waters they put a sensor on the baby's head to monitor the baby which goes in by a little spring in the baby's head. They never told me they were going to do this first had they have asked first I would have said no. This was also painful and again I needed gas for this procedure.

I asked for an epidural (I had never had an epidural with any of my 7 previous pregnancies) as I didn't seem to be coping well with the pain and was needing the gas for pain relief much earlier than ever before.

The nurse inserted the catheter but it didn't go in properly and had to be redone.

The epidural was uncomfortable with the nurse trying to monitor the baby while I had to try and get into the right position for epidural to be inserted which turned out to not have worked.

The oxytocin was at level 6 before being stopped for epidural and then had to be restarted at level 1. However I wasn't feeling like I was progressing at all and looked at me drip and asked the nurse if they had actually put it in as it looked as if I only had fluid through the drip. The nurse checked and realised it was never reconnected and it was up to level 3 but had not been connected the whole time.

I had another painful examination at 8-9pm now being Monday night and was still only 3cm dilated so I asked to see doctor for c section as I could no longer cope with all the pain and no progress. All my other 7 pregnancies were natural deliveries and I had not needed c section before. I also asked for my tubes to be tied with the c section procedure. The doctor said they didn't do that procedure there but instead do tubal ligation which is a permanent procedure. I was that traumatised by what the doctor had previously said to me about me and baby dying, breaking baby's bones and then the added trauma of how my induction was poorly handled that I didn't want to ever have to go through what I went through again and the fear of what could have happened was horrific. Due to all this I agreed to the permanent procedure which I now regret.

My beautiful baby girl was delivered by c section just after midnight Tuesday 25/7 and was born perfectly healthy. I also didn't suffer and complications as I was made to believe and we were discharged from hospital the same day at around 4pm.

I however didn't feel comfortable travelling down the [REDACTED] with a newborn late in the afternoon with a newborn baby so I stayed in [REDACTED] for the extra night at Ronald McDonald house. The drive home the next day was painful with every bump and bend in the road causing pain.

- I had 3 previous inductions with my last 3 children at [REDACTED] hospital so I was familiar with the induction process and I know that my induction with my last baby at [REDACTED] Hospital was very poorly managed.

With my previous inductions at [REDACTED] hospital I had a midwife with me around the clock and was closely monitored and steps with time frames were followed to ensure my labour was progressing properly as it should.

Had my last induction been managed properly like the others I believe I would have been able to deliver my baby naturally like the others.

I believe my last induction was poorly handled and a 3 day induction with no progress and not ever actually going into labour is not acceptable.

- Please give our hospitals the funding and staffing requirements they so desperately need

My pregnancy loss experience

- After having gone into premature labour at 22 weeks my baby only survived a couple of hours before passing away. I was then put into maternity ward room for the night. I remember the heartache of hearing other newborns crying knowing I wouldn't be taking my baby home and instead leaving the hospital empty handed. This only added to the pain and grief of losing a child.

Please help fix our broken hospital system which seems to be going downhill instead of improving over the years.