

Submission
No 1265

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Fiona Sullivan
Date Received: 2 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

On 27th March 2023 I gave birth to my baby boy at _____ through the MGP program. After days of labour right at the end my baby experienced fetal distress and I was required to rush the pushing stage with obstetrician using ventouse to assist. I was asked permission to do episiotomy and numbing injection given..though afterwards found out this didn't happen (they decided I was tearing fine naturally) and I sustained a severe 3B tear. I was concerned about risk of tearing with assisted delivery and short pushing stage (which I verbalised at the time) so felt secure knowing things were being done to reduce the risk. I was then left feeling shattered with the severity of tear and always wondering if the episiotomy would have reduced this as it was intended for. The first day with my baby was therefore exhausting and distracted by surgery, recovery and this flowed on into the weeks following.