

Submission
No 1327

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mrs Philippa Maples

Date Received: 8 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

My experience began on 40 weeks and 10 days where I was told if I didn't have an induction I would be sent down to _____ hospital which was at that time during lockdown rife with COVID even though I had been considered low risk my entire pregnancy. After beginning my induction, my labour was slow and by the time we had passed through most of the day and into the evening I asked for an epidural which was granted quickly. The monitoring band that was on my stomach was not picking up the babies heart beat very regularly (this was due to positioning and the directo the baby was not because she was in distress). I finally fully dilated and the OB told me she had disengaged and we would have to have a caesarean, I refused and asked what I could do to avoid this outcome. He told me I had a half an hour to push her down enough for an assisted delivery. After successfully pushing her into the birth canal I asked I I could push her out myself however he stated she was in distress and would have to do an assisted delivery, I had at this point heard the midwives talking about that he was needing to leave soon as he was working overtime and lived in _____. I reluctantly agreed to the assisted forceps delivery as I believed she must be in distress. She was born completely calmly and received a 9 on her health check therefore not distressed at all. I received second degree tears from this method of birthing and the trauma of having the baby taken from me while I birthed the placenta and was stitched up wasn't a great start.