

Submission
No 1289

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mrs Allison Coussens

Date Received: 15 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

I was 23 weeks 6 days pregnant, with a history of early labour, miscarriage and pre PROM (13weeks, birthed our baby girl at 18 weeks 5 days) when I was presented to Hospital via ambulance. I had really bad pains and told the midwives I had to push and I was told I didn't have to. Next minute my waters broke and I was going into labour. They checked to see if my son had a heart beat and he did. I laboured really quickly, and my son was born still on 1st August 2016. Doctors said they would not perform CPR as he was not 24 weeks. My partner demanded they perform CPR, which they did, reluctantly. From when I arrived at the hospital there was no communication from midwives or doctors. The whole time I was in labour they were talking amongst themselves, laughing, backs turned to me, no explanations, no reassurance, no comforting, nothing! My husband and I did put in a written complaint at the time in regards to treatment and lack of care. I only hope anyone else that presents to with out of the norm symptoms or concerns that they receive much better care and compassion than I did that night.