

West Mercia Police FOI Publication Strategy for Op Lincoln - Investigation into maternity services and provision at Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Hospital Trust

Following the [announcement](#) of an investigation to assess whether any criminal offences may have been committed at the maternity services and provision at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (“SaTH”); West Mercia Police is adopting the following approach to dealing with freedom of information (“FOI”) requests relating to the investigation.

It is crucial that the investigation is not prejudiced by any disclosures whilst also complying with the legal obligations of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”). Each FOI request will be looked at individually and assessed on its own merits but it is the view of West Mercia Police that information that pertains to the live investigation will generally be exempt under the Act. It is recognised that a balance needs to be struck with protecting the investigation and ensuring transparency with what is a difficult time for the families involved.

The below Op Lincoln related information to be published as soon as appropriate and no later than 3 months after relatives have been informed:

- Number of arrests or interviews under caution
- Number of charges and overview of offences
- Court dates

The following Op Lincoln related information will be published as and when the risk diminishes and no later 12 months following the conclusion of all potential criminal proceedings. Information will be released earlier as part of reporting for court proceedings if appropriate.

- Crime and charging decision statistics
- Number of victims/families included in the investigation
- Number of referrals to the investigation received from the [Ockenden Review](#) and other avenues (not all of these will be included in the final investigation)
- Number of staff at SaTH being investigated
- Number of officers involved in the investigation
- Number of police hours spent investigating
- Cost of the investigation/operation