

Privacy Notice - Public Health and Birth Records

This notice provides details of how Portsmouth City Council collects and uses information about births. For more general information about how Portsmouth City Council uses your information for Public Health purposes, please refer to the [Public Health Privacy Notice](#) on the Portsmouth City Council website.

What is this information?

Portsmouth City Council has a Data Access Agreement with NHS Digital for the supply of Office of National Statistics (ONS) births data in accordance with section 42(4) of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 as amended by section 287 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, and Regulation 3 of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002. The birth data contains personal information (data which could potentially identify a specific individual). The following fields in the birth data classified as personal data are: address; place of birth; postcode of usual residence of mother/postcode of place of birth of child; NHS number of child; date of birth of child. Other information contained includes: sex of child, birth weight, a birth in marriage indicator, country of birth of parents, occupation and socio-economic status of parents, a still birth indicator and age of mother.

Who uses this information?

The Public Health Intelligence Team in Portsmouth City Council

What do we do with this information?

This information is used for the purposes of statistical analysis, the monitoring of population health and demographic change in the city, and to inform the planning and commissioning (buying) of health services.

Typical uses of statistical analysis of births data are for the following:

- a) Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs);
- b) Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies;
- c) the annual report of the Director of Public Health;
- d) reports commissioned by the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- e) public health and wider Local Authority health and wellbeing commissioning strategies and plans;
- f) public health advice to NHS commissioners;
- g) local health profiles;
- h) health impact assessments
- i) responses to internal and external requests for information and intelligence on the health and wellbeing of the population.

Statistical outputs using births data include local breakdowns of seasonal monitoring of trends in birth rates, community profiles; the monitoring of still birth rates; low birthweights analysis; and include analysis of births by maternal age (aggregated for young mothers and older mothers for service planning).

Personal data are processed by Portsmouth City Council for specific purposes including: distribution and relationship between place of residence and place of birth (requires postcodes and address); seasonal monitoring of trends in birth rates (requires date of birth of child). Should a child safeguarding investigation arise due to child deaths and stillbirths, which may require the use of the child's NHS number.

When we do need to use personal data, we remove as much of the detail as possible that could identify an individual. For example, we replace date of birth with month of birth; and home addresses and postcodes with codes that cover larger geographical areas (eg electoral wards).

No personal information is published, and numbers and rates in published reports based on counts fewer than five are removed to further protect confidentiality and anonymity. All outputs comply with the ONS Disclosure Control Guidance for Birth and Death Statistics. The latest guidance is available on the ONS website:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/best-practice/disclosure-control-policy-for-birth-and-death-statistics/index.html

Why do we use this information?

This information is used to protect and improve the health of the local population; and ensure that health, social care and public health services address local health needs and are focused on reducing health inequalities (differences in health status between groups and geographical areas). We also use information from this dataset for work on planning fertility and maternity services.

Who do we intend to share this information with?

Much of the information we produce is in the form of anonymous statistics published through our website and in reports and papers to the Health and Wellbeing Board and other partners. We never publish information that could be used to directly identify an individual. We only share information about individuals when the direct consent of individuals has been obtained or when there is a clear basis in the law for that information to be shared; for example, disclosure is necessary to protect a person from suffering significant harm or necessary for crime prevention or detection purposes.

How do we keep this information secure?

Portsmouth City Council will process your personal information appropriately and legally in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018 and Data Protection Act 2018. Information is held in a secure database which is

only accessible to staff within the Portsmouth City Council's Public Health Intelligence Team (individuals authorised by NHS Digital). These staff members are trained in data protection / information governance.

We have processes to securely protect these records and we only keep information for as long as is necessary and in accordance with the law; and which is consistent with the data access agreement between NHS Digital, the Office for National Statistics and Portsmouth City Council.

What are your rights?

You have the right in certain circumstances to request that Portsmouth City Council stop processing your personal data. However, if this request is approved this may cause delays or prevent us delivering a service to you. Where possible we will seek to comply with your request but we may need to hold or process information in connection with one or more of the Council's public tasks or legal obligations.

You have the right to opt-out of Portsmouth City Council's Public Health Intelligence Team receiving or holding your personally identifiable information. There are occasions where service providers will have a legal duty to share information, for example for safeguarding or criminal issues. The process for opting out will depend on what the specific data is and what programme it relates to. For further information, please contact the Public Health team by email:

publichealth@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.

Further queries

If you would like further information, please send your requests to the address below:

Public Health Intelligence Team
Public Health Portsmouth
Portsmouth City Council
Floor 2, Core 2
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth, PO1 2AL
email: publichealth@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
telephone: 023 9268 8217

Further information and independent advice can be found on the [Information Commissioners website](#)

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow,
Cheshire,

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (if you prefer to use a national rate number).

Changes to this privacy notice

We keep our privacy notice under regular review. This privacy notice was last updated on 17 August 2018.