

July 2011

1. I would appreciate it if you could provide me with the statistics of multiple births (twins, triplets etc.) aged 3 years old and under within the Southend borough (from Leigh to Shoebury).

Please find below statistics on the number of multiple births, for births that were at Southend Hospital in the last three financial years. The numbers reflect the incidents of a mother delivering more than one baby, rather than the number of babies born.

We do not hold information showing the breakdown of whether the births to a mother were either twins or triplets in an easily retrievable form. Whilst we hold the information requested within patient medical records, as it is not separately recorded it is not easily extractable. It is estimated that it would take well in excess of 18 hours to locate, retrieve, and extract this information.

Having regard the Freedom of Information Act and Data Protection Act (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007, and to section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, where the associated cost of locating, retrieving, and extracting the requested information is estimated to exceed the upper fee limit of £450 set for NHS Trusts (which represents the cost of one person spending 2½ working days at a rate of £25 per hour) then we are sorry but we are unable to respond to this part your question.

Year	Number of Multiple Births
2008/09	74
2009/10	72
2010/11	52
April 2011 to June 2011	17

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