



Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch

HSIB, A1  
Cody Technology Park  
Farnborough  
Hampshire  
GU14 0LX

Sara Hollins – Director of Midwifery  
Dr Carolyn Robertson - Clinical Director O&G  
Bradford Royal Infirmary  
Duckworth Lane  
Bradford  
BD9 6RJ

11 May 2022

Dear Sara and Carolyn,

### **HSIB escalation of emerging concerns**

The Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) maternity investigations began in April 2018. Our role is to undertake independent investigations into cases which meet our eligibility criteria.

An emerging concerns panel has been held in relation to HSIB investigation MI-006358. The review highlighted themes that have been identified in other HSIB investigations. We want to make you aware of these emerging concerns to enable learning and safety improvements to begin, before completing the final investigation report for MI-006358. We will include, in our report, any relevant changes or improvements you put in place in response to these concerns.

The concerns are as follows:

1. Supporting mothers whose first language is not English:
  - a. Insufficient provision / usage of interpreting services for antenatal appointments.



- b. Family members being used to interpret information for the mother.
- 2. Fetal growth surveillance:
  - a. Opportunities for growth ultrasound scans to being undertaken following a slowing growth trajectory on symphysis-fundal height measurements.
- 3. Trust audit for missed small or gestational age (SGA) babies:
  - a. No audits completed after September 2021.
  - b. Uncertainty about the validity and reliability of data provided to the investigation, in relation to missed SGA audits from March 2020 to September 2021.

In line with NHS England's perinatal quality surveillance model principle 1, this letter should be shared with your trust board as part of your perinatal quality surveillance dashboard ([implementing-a-revised-perinatal-quality-surveillance-model.pdf](https://www.england.nhs.uk/implementing-a-revised-perinatal-quality-surveillance-model.pdf) ([england.nhs.uk](https://www.england.nhs.uk))).

For transparency, HSIB are also sharing these concerns with your regional chief midwife and regional lead obstetrician. Please could you share with your organisation's commissioners.

Please confirm receipt of this letter within 24 hours and respond with your immediate actions within five working days, to Cara Taylor via email.

Yours sincerely

Cara Taylor  
North Central Team Leader  
[Cara.taylor@hsib.org.uk](mailto:Cara.taylor@hsib.org.uk)

Cc:  
Sarah Winfield, Regional Lead Obstetrician  
Tracey Cooper, Regional Chief Midwife  
Helen Smith, Regional Lead for Maternity Investigations, HSIB