



HEALTHCARE SAFETY  
INVESTIGATION BRANCH

[WWW.HSIB.ORG.UK](http://WWW.HSIB.ORG.UK)

# THE HSIB INVESTIGATION

Staff information

## QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE IF YOU'RE INVOLVED IN AN HSIB MATERNITY INVESTIGATION

### What is the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch?

Operational since April 2017, we carry out independent investigations across the NHS in England. Our focus is on system change rather than apportioning individual blame, and we aim to drive improvements at a national level.

We are hosted by NHS Improvement and funded by the Department of Health; however, we act independently to Trusts, regulators and other NHS organisations.

### MATERNITY INVESTIGATIONS BACKGROUND

In November 2017, the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, announced a new maternity safety strategy, Safer Maternity Care: announcing plans for HSIB to undertake around 1000 independent safety investigations. HSIB will undertake maternity investigations which meet the each baby counts criteria. We'll also investigate direct or indirect maternal deaths in the perinatal period.

### What's the purpose of the investigation?

The purpose of the investigation is to establish the facts surrounding the case we are investigating. This means we will need to interview you if you were involved in providing care, or witnessed anything that could be relevant to the case. This applies to both clinical and non-clinical staff.

We work closely with organisations, staff and families involved. Sharing learning from these investigations will be crucial, and we will use our position as an independent organisation to draw out wider themes for the system.

### Who are the HSIB maternity investigators?

HSIB maternity investigators come from a variety of backgrounds such as healthcare, police, law and civil service roles and all have professional investigation experience. You will be interviewed by two investigators who will introduce themselves and answer any questions you have about the role of HSIB and the investigation process.

### Do I need to give consent before I take part in an investigation?

We will take consent to record your interview and keep the interview in audio format. For further information on how you can request a copy of your personal data form HSIB, please see Fact Sheet.

### What information will you need from me?

The investigating team will ask you about your recollections of the incident. Investigators may ask you to clarify certain points to ensure full understanding. Feel free to ask any questions.

### What will happen to the information I give you?

The information you give us will be used to inform the final report.

### Who will the information be shared with?

The final reports are anonymised and shared with you, your Trust, families and other relevant organisations. In addition, key areas of learning will be published on our website.

### Does this replace the Trust's internal Serious Incident investigation process?

Yes, this does replace the Trust's Serious Incident investigation process for cases within our criteria.

### Can I bring someone to the interview with me?

Yes – you are able to bring someone with you for support during your interview. Please be aware that the person you bring to the interview will be there in a supportive role only and this cannot be a family member or friend. They will need to understand that all information shared during the interview is confidential. They are not able to speak on your behalf or contribute to the interview. If you require a translator please inform us.

### How long will it take?

Due to the nature of our investigations, the interviews vary in length. It would be advisable to allow two hours for the interview.

### **How will the information I give you be recorded?**

Your interview will be recorded (audio only) with your consent. You may request a copy of your record interview, please see Fact Sheet for instructions on how to do this. You will be provided with a copy of the interview if you would like one.

### **Will you need to interview me again?**

We will aim to get all the information we need in one interview to minimise disruption. However the investigators may need to return if the investigation raises further questions or if they need more clarity over issues. If this is the case, we'll let you know as soon as we possibly can. If you want to provide further information please contact us.

### **Who else will you interview?**

We may interview other Trust staff involved in the incident and clinicians from other organisations who have been involved in the care. We will also interview family members.

### **What happens if I'm on annual leave or sick leave?**

We can arrange a date to interview you on your return. In the case of long term absences we will request the Trust to arrange an occupational health review to assess if you are well enough to be interviewed.

### **How can I contact you?**

You will be provided with the contact details for the investigators, and you can access them from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm throughout the course of the investigation.

### **FIND OUT MORE**

**Email:** [enquiries@hsib.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hsib.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.hsib.org.uk](http://www.hsib.org.uk)



