

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric](#)
Subject: Submission to the inquiry
Date: Monday, 16 September 2024 3:11:20 PM

The Select Committee,

Hi. Firstly I would like to say how impressed I was with the facilities at the hospital I attended for the birth of my first child. In general the staff were also helpful and caring. However there were elements of my care that left me feeling disrespected and in one case violated. The hospital is a 3h round trip from where I live (and I fully accept it is my choice to live that far away), however in the last month of pregnancy I was asked to come in repeatedly (more than once a week on some occasions) for blood pressure measurements....something that could have been done at the local medical practice. I also felt very pressured to be induced from even before my due date. One doctor tried to pressure me into a treatment that wasn't required and was rude when I declined it. On multiple occasions I was left for hours attached to the continuous foetal monitoring machine. The first occasion I was told to lie on my back and became very uncomfortable. It was only when I moved and the monitor stopped reading that a nurse came and said I could lie on my side. Despite my readings being normal I was left attached to this machine for over 8 hours.....I was repeatedly told the doctor would check it soon and not long to wait. In the end I had to check myself out. Once over my due date the pressure to be induced (despite a healthy pregnancy) increased even further. I was told by one male doctor my baby was better off out of me than in (despite readings being normal). Towards the end of my labour I was made to lie on my back to get foetal heart rate readings. He was having late deceleration and I was told a cesarean or episiotomy were required. The doctor then performed a very rough vaginal examination and placed a monitor on my baby's head. This examination was so rough and was left feeling violated and have a sick feeling thinking of it to this day. At the end of it all we both came out ok so I am still thankful to the staff, and the aftercare was good. The doctors are very competent and do a great job but I think that they need to remember they are dealing with a human being too.

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