



20th December 2019

To whom it may concern

Re: FROSTTIE: A randomised controlled trial of Frenotomy and breastfeeding support Or breastfeeding Support without frenotomy to investigate continuation of breastfeeding for babies with Tongue-TIE.

I am writing on behalf of the Trial Steering Committee and the Data Monitoring Committee for the FROSTTIE trial. We whole-heartedly support this important research because it addresses an important evidence gap – namely how best can the NHS support breastfeeding when babies have tongue-tie, and whether frenotomy may benefit specific groups of babies more than others.

Currently there is not enough evidence to convince local or national NHS commissioners about what services they should provide for babies with tongue-tie and their parents. NIHR have therefore prioritised and commissioned this research. Parents across the UK are receiving different services for their babies with tongue-tie, with evidence of decreasing funding and support in some areas.

The trial is being run through the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford (a prominent and well-established clinical trials unit), and led by Professor Marian Knight, an experienced researcher and public health physician alongside a strong team of co-investigators including infant feeding specialists.

FROSTTIE is a large randomised controlled trial with an economic evaluation and the team will need to recruit 870 babies with tongue-tie over two years. This will require a huge collaborative effort by early years teams across the UK. We would like to request your support for the FROSTTIE team in this endeavour.

We feel it is important to put an end to the lack of evidence about how to manage tongue-tie and produce the evidence that will benefit babies, their parents and inform both policy and practice. We hope you agree.

With kind regards

Professor Pat Hoddinott
Chair in Primary Care

Signed on behalf of:

FROSTTIE Trial Steering Committee (TSC)

1. Professor Pat Hoddinott, Chair, Chair in Primary Care, NMAHP Research Unit, University of Stirling
2. Mr Mike Bradburn, Independent member, Senior Medical Statistician, University of Sheffield
3. Professor Debra Bick, Independent member, Professor of Clinical Trials in Maternal Health, Warwick Clinical Trials Unit, University of Warwick
4. Dr Mark Johnson, Independent member, Consultant Neonatologist, Department of Neonatal Medicine, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust
5. Dr Sarah McMullen, Independent member (public), Head of Knowledge, National Childbirth Trust
6. Dr Jenny Ingram, Independent member, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Academic Child Health, University of Bristol
7. Professor Marian Knight, Non-independent member, FROSTTIE Chief Investigator, NIHR Professor, National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford
8. Associate Professor Ed Juszczak, Non-independent member, Director, National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit Clinical Trials Unit (NPEU CTU), University of Oxford

Data Monitoring Committee (DMC)

1. Professor Ben Stenson, Chair, Independent member, Consultant Neonatologist, Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
2. Professor Graeme MacLennan, Independent member, Director, Centre for Healthcare and Randomised Trials, University of Aberdeen
3. Professor Mary Renfrew, Independent member, Professor in Mother and Infant Health, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, University of Dundee