

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 23-059**

9 February 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we hold some of the information you are requesting

**Information regarding miscarriages in maternity services.**

**PRIMARY DISCHARGE REASON (MOTHER MATERNITY SERVICES) is the primary reason that the mother was discharged from a Maternity Service.**

**1) The total number of cases with a Primary Discharge reason recorded and the total number of cases with a Primary Discharge reason of "Miscarriage".**

We do not hold this information. Our systems do not record primary discharge reason of 'miscarriage'.

**Please can you provide the data with the following breakdowns:**

**a) Yearly totals for the years 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017.**

**b) Level of deprivation of the mother, from 1-Most deprived to 10-Least deprived**

**c) Racial and/or Ethnic group of the mother, e.g. Asian, Black, White, etc.**

For 1a-c, we do not hold this information. Our systems do not record primary discharge reason of 'miscarriage'.

**2) Available support programs & groups mothers are signposted to after a miscarriage and, if applicable, criteria for receiving support.**

Women that have experienced either PUL (pregnancy of unknown location) or miscarriage are informally followed up by an experienced midwife/nurse practitioners either one/two or three weeks following a physical discharge from our service (the different time frame depending on their situation.) We would expect that all women are asked about their and their partner's emotional wellbeing and any questions would be addressed. An offer of further telephone follow up is offered if indicated and an offer of a debriefing appointment in EPC (Early

Pregnancy Clinic) to discuss the details of their experience if required. We refer women back to their GP if we are concerned regarding mental health or the mental health crisis team (if extremely vulnerable ) or re-refer to maternal psychological services if an existing patient. Every patient is given contact details of a miscarriage association/ectopic pregnancy trust, if indicated and a charity called Willow Tree who provide psychological support. We are going to follow all women seen on the Gynae ward with an ectopic pregnancy from March 2023 with the above process.

**3) The total number of bereavement midwives employed by your trust or any other staff/nurses specialised in supporting women after a miscarriage.**

We have appointed 0.5WTE midwife and 0.5wte NICU nurse as bereavement leads.

**Please can you provide the data with the following breakdown:**

**a) Yearly for the years 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017.**

We didn't employ any bereavement midwives in these years.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer  
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

**Publication**

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information

(such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust**