

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-188

24 April 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

1. The total number of serious incident reports made for each hospital and/or maternity unit in your trust between Jan 2012 - present, broken down per calendar year for each hospital

Please see the attached document.

Please note: This does not include data from Weston General Hospital pre-merger (before April 2020) due to the data being held on a different system and would involve a manual trawl - Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOIA as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

2. The total number of serious incident reports made by each hospital and/or maternity unit in your trust which refer to maternity or peri-natal care between Jan 2012 - present broken down per calendar year for each hospital

Please see the attached document.

Please note: Where the figures are between 1 and 5, this has been denoted by *. Due to the low numbers, we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act, namely Principle 1. The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. (Section 40 is the exemption for personal information).

Please note: This does not include data from Weston General Hospital pre-merger (before April 2020) due to the data being held on a different system and would involve a manual trawl - Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the

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3. The total numbers of deliveries made by each hospital and/or maternity unit in your trust between Jan 2012 - present broken down per calendar year.

Please see the attached document.

4. For each calendar year that you have the data available please, provide the ratio of clinical midwives to births for each of the hospitals and/or maternity units run by your trust.

We cannot provide this information due to the complexity of calculating the ratio of clinical midwives to births due to all the different aspects of the care involved.

5. For each calendar year that you have the data available please provide the BirthRate Plus recommended ratio of clinical midwives to births for each of the hospitals and/or maternity units run by your trust

Please see below for the most recent information we hold from the Birthrate Plus Report June 2022:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| All Hospital Births (Delivery Suite (DS) & Birth Centre (BC)) and all hospital care | 30.1 births to 1 wte |
| Home births | 36.0 births to 1 wte |
| Community care (Ante & Postnatal) | 98.0 cases to 1 wte |
| Overall ratio for all births | 23.1 births to 1 wte |

Note: The overall ratio for University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust of 23.1 births to 1wte equates to the often-cited ratio of 28 or 29.5 births to 1 wte, but they are not directly comparable for the local factors. Local factors include % uplift for annual, sick & study leave, case mix of women birthing in hospital, provision of outpatient/day unit services and total number of women having community care irrespective of place of birth.

The home births/ community and overall births ratios were based on extensive data from Birthrate Plus studies and whilst published so seen as 'up to date', more recent studies in the past 3 years are indicating that these ratios may not be appropriate to use for comparison, mainly due to increase in acuity of mothers and babies and subsequent care required. These factors have changed the overall and, indeed, individual ratios. Therefore, it is advisable to use own ratios calculated from a detailed assessment for workforce planning purposes.

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