

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 24-040**

7 February 2024

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 do hold the information you are requesting

**For the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, please provide:**

**1. The number of midwifery "red flag" incidents (examples provided here: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng4/chapter/recommendations#box-3-midwifery-red-flag-events>) identified in your maternity departments, broken down by year**  
**o If your organisation has other "red flag" incidents agreed locally, please specify what they are and how many occurred per year**

**o Of these, please specify how many of these incidents (as a proportion - i.e. 65%, and the raw number) related to staffing levels. NHSE guidelines state that the midwife in charge should document whether midwifery staffing is the cause:**

**<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/safe-staffing-maternity-appendices.pdf>**

Delayed time-critical activity – we are unable to determine whether incidents were due to staffing, acuity or a combination of both because this information is not always recorded.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Reported Incidents	0	0	6	*	6

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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

Delay of 30 minutes or more between presentation and triage - we are unable to determine whether incidents were due to staffing, acuity or a combination of both because this information is not always recorded.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Reported Incidents	*	0	0	*	*

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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

Any occasion when one midwife is not able to provide continuous one-to-one care and support to a woman during established labour - we are unable to determine whether incidents were due to staffing, acuity or a combination of both because this information is not always recorded.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Reported Incidents	*	*	*	*	*

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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

Please also note that moving forward following the introduction of the new system BadgerNet this data will be captured within the electronic maternity system and will not rely on clinicians submitting a Datix incident report.

*Please note that Trusts set their own red flags so the data cannot be compared to other Trusts.*

**2. Please also specify the number of times patients needed to be diverted to other trusts to deliver their baby, broken down by year**

**o Of those, please break down (again as a proportion and raw number) how many diverts were**

**a) due to a lack of staff**

**b) for other reasons, please provide details**

We cannot provide this information in the requested format due to the way the information is captured on our system. The number of times the maternity unit attempted to divert or was on divert is as below:

**2019: 6**

**2020: 9**

**2021: 13**

**2022: 11**

**2023: 6**

Please note that we cannot provide the number of patients affected.

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**