

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 21-633

14 December 2021

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

Question 1

1a) Have any of your midwife-led units been temporarily suspended or unavailable to people at any point during the last 6 months? (1st June 2021 - 1st December 2021)

Yes

1b) If so, how many times was each one temporarily suspended or unavailable? If you have more than one maternity service, please specify the numbers per service.

7

1c) What were the reasons for each suspension or closure? If you have more than one maternity service, please specify the reasons for each.

i) Insufficient staffing numbers due to sickness

ii) Bed shortages

iii) Both bed and staffing shortages

iv) Other, please specify ambulance attendance times, unable to provide an emergency transfer for home birth

Insufficient staffing numbers due to sickness

Question 2

2a) Have people been "diverted" from your maternity services (obstetric unit/midwife-led unit/birth centre) to another hospital at any point during the last 6 months (1st June 2021 - 1st December 2021) including for any period lasting less than 4 hours?

Yes

2b) If so, how many times were people diverted? If you have more than one maternity service, please specify the numbers per service.

*

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).

2c) What were the reasons for the diversions? If you have more than one maternity service, please specify the numbers per service.

i) Insufficient staffing numbers

ii) Bed shortages

iii) Both bed and staffing shortages for commencement of her induction n of labour in June

iv) Other, please specify

Both bed and staffing shortages for commencement of her induction of labour in June

Question 3

3a) How many midwives do you employ? - 241

3b) How many of your midwives are currently signed off on long-term sick leave? - 3

3c) How many midwives on are on long-term sick leave due to anxiety/stress/depression/other psychiatric illnesses - 2

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:

Director of Corporate Governance
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