

## Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-794

11 November 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
- **What type of unit this is - delivery unit or birth centre. If birth centre, is this on the same site as a delivery unit or freestanding?**  
We are an Obstetric unit with a midwifery led unit and a free-standing birthing unit in Weston General Hospital.
- **For each individual year over the past 5 years, how many births were there in each setting?**

Type of Unit	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (up to 25th Sept)
Shared unit	2912	2506	2496	2694	1730
Consultant unit	1401	1336	1627	1470	1052
Midwifery unit	608	565	442	97	103
Home	135	123	131	103	71
Other	18	66	77	35	26
NHS Obstetric unit (including theatre)		211	261	203	163

Type of Unit	2023 (26 <sup>th</sup> September onwards)
Delivery Suite	790
Obstetric Theatre	297
Home	27
Midwife Led Unit	26
Other	12

Please note that for the first table above the reporting system used changed from Careflow Maternity system to BadgerNet system in September 2023; this means that the response across that period is not categorised in the same way (hence the split table).

**In each of those years, what was the number of spontaneous vaginal deliveries and c-sections (please stratify this by category of c-section)?**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Spontaneous Vaginal Deliveries</b>	<b>How many elected sections?</b>	<b>How many emergency sections?</b>
2019	2181	803	723
2020	1915	880	707
2021	2183	973	836
2022	2780	1240	854
2023	1595	945	830

**• Which of the following non-pharmacological forms of pain relief are offered: water pool, TENS, hypnobirthing, aromatherapy, acupuncture, birth comb, sterile water injection**

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 FOI 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.

**• In each individual year over the past 5 years, what has been the number of patients using each of the above non-pharmacological forms of pain relief offered?**

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 FOI 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.

**• Which of the following pharmacological forms of pain relief are offered: paracetamol, dihydrocodeine, entonox, pethidine, diamorphine, epidural, remifentanyl PCA**

All the above are available but we don't routinely give pethidine or diamorphine in established labour. They are more likely to be given in latent phase.

**• In each individual year over the past 5 years, what has been the number of patients using each of the above pharmacological forms of pain relief offered?**

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 FOI 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.

- **In each individual year over the past 5 years, how many patients who have an epidural use an alternative form of pain relief prior to requesting an epidural?**

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 FOI 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.

- **In each individual year over the past 5 years, what proportion of patients are waiting more than 30 minutes to receive an epidural? What is the mean time taken to obtain an epidural by time of day (in hours vs out of hours)?**

We do not hold this information. For any queries relating to when a patient requested medication, this is unfortunately not recorded. We only record when the medication is administered.

- **If remifentanyl PCA is available, how many patients are able to have a PCA at any one time?**

This depends on midwife availability but usually two.

- **If remifentanyl PCA is available, is this offered to anyone or only in those for whom an epidural is contraindicated?**

Only if an epidural is contraindicated.

- **If remifentanyl PCA is not available in a delivery unit, what is the reason for this?**

Not applicable.

- **Out of hours (nights and weekends), how many dedicated anaesthetists are on-site, and has this changed over the past 5 years?**

Weekdays - 2 consultants, 2 trainees minimum. Weekend days - 1 consultant, 1 trainee.

Nights - 1 trainee.

This has increased in the last 5 years with the presence of a consultant during the weekend day time a recent innovation.

- **For each individual year over the past 5 years, what proportion of patients are requesting a physiological third stage compared to an active third stage (please stratify this by setting i.e. delivery unit and birth centre)? What proportion of patients who choose physiological third stage management then go on to have a post-partum haemorrhage when compared to those who choose an active third stage?**

We do not hold this information. For any queries relating to when a patient requested medication, this is unfortunately not recorded. We only record when the medication is administered.

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**