

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-214

3rd June 2025

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

1. What was the number of stillbirths recorded in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?

Year	Number of stillbirths recorded
2020	15
2021	19
2022	15
2023	9
2024	13

2. What was the number of maternal deaths recorded in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?

Year	Number of maternal deaths recorded
2020	*
2021	*
2022	*
2023	*
2024	*

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providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

3. What was the number of babies harmed during delivery in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?

Clarification regarding harm to babies as below:

- **Hypoxia as a result of fetal distress (causing stillbirth/brain injury/long term neurological damage)**
- **Fractures of humerus, clavicle, skull**
- **Nerve damage**
- **Meconium aspiration**
- **Cephalhematoma**
- **Sepsis and infection**
- **Group B Streptococcus**

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.

4. What was the number of mothers harmed during delivery in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?

Clarification regarding harm to mothers as below:

- **Haemorrhage**
- **Failed intubation**
- **Local anesthetic systemic toxicity**
- **Nerve damage**
- **3rd/4th degree tear**
- **Pelvic floor damage**
- **Incontinence**
- **Future sexual dysfunction**
- **Bladder injury**
- **Bowel injury**
- **Symphysis pubic dislocation**
- **Amniotic fluid embolism**
- **Deep vein thrombosis**
- **Sepsis and infection**
- **Uterine rupture**
- **Uterine prolapse**
- **Psychological trauma**

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.

5. How many midwifery red flag events were there in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guideline 4 'Safe midwifery staffing for maternity settings' describes a midwifery 'red flag' event as “a warning sign that something may be wrong with midwifery staffing” such as delays in medical reviews and maternity triage difficulties.

Please see our response in the attached document. We have only provided this information from the last financial year as previously this information was extracted from the Datix reporting system and this was not an accurate reflection of activity. 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.

6. How many midwifery job vacancies were there in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?

Please note the below information is given in whole-time-equivalents and is based on the difference between budget and staff-in-post on the General Ledger.

Year	Midwifery job vacancies
2020	1.74
2021	1.19
2022	12.79
2023	14.05
2024	23.55
2025	4.25

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