

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-591

3rd September 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. How many vacancies do you currently have for

a) midwives; - 0

b) obstetricians? – 1

(And how many members of staff do you currently have in both those roles?)

Midwives: 271.41 FTE

Obstetricians: 37.62 FTE (this includes consultants and resident doctors)

2. What is the number of stillbirths and neonatal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years? And what was the recorded ethnicity of those who died, if the data is available?

2016:

Still births: 21

Neonatal Deaths: 34

2017

Still births: 15

Neonatal Deaths: 30

2018

Still births: 38

Neonatal deaths: 38

2019

Still births: 12

Neonatal Deaths: 35

2020

Still births: 16

Neonatal Deaths: 30

2021

Still births: 21

Neonatal Deaths: 22

2022

Still births: 17

Neonatal Deaths: 33

2023

Still births: 9

Neonatal Deaths: 19

2024

Still births: 15

Neonatal Deaths: 22

We have not provided the ethnicity 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).

3. How many live births were recorded at your trust/board in each of the past 10 years?**2015/16:** 5416**2016/17:** 5579**2017/18:** 5222**2018/19:** 5157**2019/20:** 5115**2020/21:** 4831**2021/22:** 5022**2022/23:** 4614**2023/24:** 4397**2024/25:** 4416**4. What is the number of maternal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years? And what was the recorded ethnicity of those who died?**

We can only provide this information from 2018 – between 2018 and 2025 there were 8 maternal deaths. We have not provided this in the requested format 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).

5. How many medical negligence suits have arisen from incidents in your maternity department in each of the past 10 years? How many resulted in a payment being made, and how much was paid out in each of the past 10 years?

Please contact NHS Resolution for this information at [Freedom of information - NHS Resolution](#)

6. How many third- and fourth-degree tears have you recorded for each of the past 10 years?

2015/16: 146
2016/17: 149
2017/18: 146
2018/19: 132
2019/20: 106
2020/21: 93
2021/22: 119
2022/23: 120
2023/24: 111
2024/25: 104

7. What are your current rates of forceps use, if you keep data on this?

This data has been collected since 2024/25: 14%

8. What are your current rates of ventouse assisted deliveries, if you keep data on this?

This data has been collected since 2024/25: 10%

9. How many emergency caesarean sections have you carried out in each of the past 10 years?

2015/16: 528
2016/17: 587
2017/18: 596
2018/19: 606
2019/20: 711
2020/21: 703
2021/22: 875
2022/23: 815
2023/24: 778
2024/25: 734

10. How many Maternal Request Caesareans were made to staff in each of the past 10 years, and how many were approved?

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.

11. How much did your trust/board pay for use of interpreters in its maternity department in each of the past 10 years?

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.

12. How many people have received treatment as part of any MMHS (Maternal Mental Health Service) in the past year?

Our service here is not maternal mental health but Women's Psychological Health services and we cannot break this information down.

13. How many people are on the waiting list to receive treatment from the MMHS right now? And how long is the average waiting time for treatment?

We do not have a waiting list. We have had approximately 200 referrals in the last year.

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