

Information Governance

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Ref: FOI2018/4622

Date Received: 20th April 2018
Response Due: 21st May 2018

15th May 2018

Dear

INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

We are now pleased to respond to your request for information under the FOI Act.

I would like to make the following requests relating to your maternity units under the Freedom of Information Act, 2000. All requests are for the dates April 1st, 2017 to March 31st, 2018.

1 How many 'red flag' events have occurred in your maternity units in this time frame? And are you able to say whether this is higher than the 12 month period preceding these dates?

[Midwifery Red Flags were only added to Datix for our unit in July 2017.](#)

2 Have there been occasions where a woman has:

- *Been left alone during active labour – [Unable to answer has this data is not captured.](#)*
- *Had to wait more than hour an hour for pain relief – [Please see the attached table.](#)*
- *Had to wait more than one hour for stitches - [Please see the attached table.](#)*

3 How many times between these dates have you been forced to close the maternity unit due to staff shortage or lack of beds?

[Please see the attached table \(1 for Medical staffing/ remainder for bed capacity or acuity\)](#)

4 On how many occasions have wards been staffed with less than the Government recommended number of midwives?

[Unfortunately we are unable to respond to this question as this would require off duties for all areas to be reviewed, and checked alongside requests for Bank Staff and whether bank was used or cancelled and would therefore exceed the 18 hours permitted under the act.](#)

Refusal Notice for question 4 - The information that you have requested is exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act because it will take more than 18 hours to retrieve and extract the relevant information.

12. — (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

Regulation 4(3) of the Fees Regulations states that a public authority can only take into account the costs it reasonably expects to incur in carrying out the following permitted activities in complying with the request:

- ☐ determining whether the information is held;
- ☐ locating the information, or a document containing it;
- ☐ retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- ☐ extracting the information from a document containing it.

All public authorities should calculate the time spent on the permitted activities at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour.

This means that the appropriate limit will be exceeded if it would require more than 18 hours work for all public authorities.

5 How many midwives are you currently short of in your Trust? How many posts are being advertised? (As of 19th April 2018)

On the 19th April 2018 at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust we currently only have 2.92 whole time equivalent (WTE) permanent vacancies against our current funded establishment. 1.92 WTE vacancies have been recruited to and these midwives are in the HR recruitment stage of appointment and 1 WTE will be advertised as a recruitment shortly,

6 How many maternity negligence cases have been brought against you in the past 12 months? 2

7 And finally, how many complaints have been made to your Trust regarding maternity services between the same dates. 18

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you Within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Foster
Chief Executive

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF