

Information Governance

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Ref: FOI2019/5306

Date Received: 25th March 2019

Response Due: 24th April 2019

9th April 2019

Dear

INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request information covered under the points:

Could you please help me find the most recent statistics relating to infant deaths? I am looking for data since 2000 and onwards on the following, in excel format please.

1. **Infant deaths**
 - a. **Total number**
 - b. **Stillbirths**
 - c. **Neonatal**
 - d. **Postneonatal**
 - e. **Babies who suffered serious harm during birth**
 - f. **Causes of death**
 - g. **Breakdown of points a–f by infant's ethnicity**
2. **Serious untoward incidents (SUI) in maternity services**
 - a. **Total number**
 - b. **How many led to death**
 - c. **How many led to a civil action being instigated**
 - d. **Breakdown of SUIs by infant's and mother's ethnicity**
 - e. **Breakdown of SUI cases that led to death by infant's and mother's ethnicity**

3. **Maternal deaths**
 - a. **Total number**
 - b. **Breakdown by ethnicity**

4. **Staff working in maternity services**
 - a. **Total medical staff**
 - b. **Total non-medical staff**
 - c. **Breakdown by ethnicity**

Below is a breakdown of the total staffing in Maternity Services (these are FTE figures). In respect of the ethnic breakdown I would note that due to small numbers of staff in certain ethnic categories they have been grouped together as "other".

Sum of FT Ethnic origin	Main Staff Group Medical and Dental	Non-Medical and Dental	Grand Total
White	5	176.58	181.58
Other	13.70	4.92	18.62
Grand total	18.70	181.50	200.20

Refusal Notice for Question 1-3 - 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.

Unfortunately the request would be extremely difficult to complete for the following reasons.

- This will require individual triangulation of data for each mother and baby as no single report can be run to obtain the data
- The years of data that have been requested is for 19 years and much pre dates what we currently have access to
- Case notes will have to be obtained and will have a financial implication on the Directorate
- The number of years that have been requested will cover 2 maternity systems. We would have to request access to archived data prior to 2011 which would exceed the 18 hours required to provide a response.

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