

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters

Chief Nurse

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Ref: FOI/2025/10931

Date Received: 21st July 2025

Response Due: 18th August 2025

Date: 18th August 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 21st July 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

1. How many vacancies do you currently have for a) midwives; b) obstetricians? And how many members of staff do you currently have in both those roles?)

	Midwives	Obstetricians
Currently employed:	163 – registered only.	27 – all Obs & Gynae Medical staff.
Current vacancies:	6	0

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?

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths
2015	Total = 12. White British White Other Indian Irish Traveller	Total = <5 White British
2016	Total = 12. White British	Total = <5 White British
2017	Total = <5.	None.

	White British	
2018	Total = 10. White British White Other Asian Other Other	Total = <5 White British
2019	Total = 10. White British Black Other	Total = <5 White Other Mixed Other
2020	Total = 12. White British Other	Total = <5. White British
2021	Total = 6. White British Other	Total = <5. White British
2022	Total = 6. White British	Total = <5 White British Asian Other
2023	Total = 13. White British Asian Other Black African	Total = 5. The ethnicity breakdown is being withheld under Section 40 of the FOI Act.
2024	Total = 7. White British Black Caribbean	Total = <5. The ethnicity breakdown is being withheld under Section 40 of the FOI Act.

*Neonatal death data is inclusive of Termination of Pregnancies.

We are withholding the exact figures for the ethnicity breakdown under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as disclosing it could lead to the identification of individuals. This constitutes personal data, and its release would breach the data protection principles.

3. How many live births were recorded at your trust/board in each of the past 10 years?

2015 = 2,855.
2016 = 2,769.
2017 = 2,813.
2018 = 2,626.
2019 = 2,471.
2020 = 2,341.
2021 = 2,489.
2022 = 2,546.
2023 = 2,462.
2024 = 2,424.

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?

2015 = This information is not available.
2016 = This information is not available.
2017 = This information is not available.
2018 = 0.

2019 = 0.
 2020 = 0.
 2021 = 0.
 2022 = 0.
 2023 = 0.
 2024 = 0.

5. How many medical negligence suits have arisen from incidents in your maternity department in each of the past 10 years?

2015 = 4.
 2016 = 3.
 2017 = 6.
 2018 = 7.
 2019 = 4.
 2020 = 4.
 2021 = 5.
 2022 = 6.
 2023 = 9.
 2024 = 7.

6. How many resulted in a payment being made, and how much was paid out in each of the past 10 years?

31 resulted in a payment being made.

2015 = £2,500.
 2016 = £2,243,000.
 2017 = £4,526,833.
 2018 = £31,500.
 2019 = £0.
 2020 = £183,000.
 2021 = £5,772,500.
 2022 = £1,764,676.
 2023 = £149,000.
 2024 = £7,556,665.

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

Year	Third Degree Tears	Fourth Degree Tears
2015	-	
2016	-	
2017	-	
2018	37	
2019	40	
2020	39	
2021	74	
2022	48	
2023	35	
2024	40	1

The Trust has only recently started differentiating third- and fourth-degree tears in our reporting, therefore 2023 and earlier can only be reported as a whole.

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

The Trust only holds data on the rate of instrumental deliveries, which includes both forceps and ventouse. The total rate for the calendar year 2024 was 9.68% of all deliveries.

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

The Trust only holds data on the rate of instrumental deliveries, which includes both forceps and ventouse. The total rate for the calendar year 2024 was 9.68% of all deliveries.

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

2015 = This information is not available.

2016 = This information is not available.

2017 = This information is not available.

2018 = 419.

2019 = 450.

2020 = 424.

2021 = 449.

2022 = 566.

2023 = 633.

2024 = 679.

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

The Trust does not record this information, therefore is not available.

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

The Trust is unable to provide a breakdown for 2014/15 – 2021/22 as we used several different providers and can not identify which were Maternity interpreters.

2022/23 = £5,399.30.

2023/24 = £12,154.83.

2024/25 = £13,814.90.

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

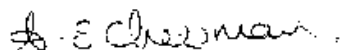
In 2024, we had 596 referrals into MHMW. Of those, 350 received support from the Trust. The main reason for not receiving input is the client opting out of the service following referral.

14. 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?

Currently, there is no waiting list time for our team. All clients are currently seen on time within 2 weeks of referral or after their 12-week scan, whichever is most appropriate. A few are on waiting lists for assessments/treatments with external MH services which are not linked to WWL.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Amanda Cheesman
Deputy Chief Nurse

PLEASE NOTE:

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, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111