

**Wrightington, Wigan and
Leigh Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/11008

Date Received: 13th August 2025

Response Due: 11th September 2025

Date: 10th September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 13th August 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. Please may you:

- 1. Please confirm if current antenatal care for multiple birth pregnancies (in 2024/5 and going forward) is delivered by a "a core team of named specialist obstetricians, specialist midwives and sonographers, all of whom have experience and knowledge of managing twin and triplet pregnancies" in accordance with NICE guideline NG137.**
Yes, as per our Baseline Assessment into NG137, however the Trust has a Named Midwife for Multiple Birth Pregnancies clinic, not a Specialist Midwife. The sonographers are part of a wider team of obstetric sonographers, with two team members named as multiple pregnancy specialists. Other sonographers within the team may also scan multiple pregnancies depending on the time and location of the scan. The Trust has a named Obstetrician for Multiple Birth who leads the Multiple Birth Clinic.
- 2. For the above positions, prioritising the multiple birth specialist midwives, please confirm:**
 - a. Please specify job title** = Named Midwife for 'Multiple Birth Pregnancies Clinic'.
 - b. Please confirm WTE for this role** = 0.2 WTE (the clinic runs once per week).
 - c. Please confirm what band this role is within your department** = Band 6.
 - d. How is this role funded?** = Through the existing Antenatal Clinic budget.
 - e. Please confirm who holds the contract and line management? (Email contact if able).**
The contract is held by WWL and the line manager for this post is the Antenatal Clinic Manager.
- a. Please specify job title** = Sonographer.

- b. **Please confirm WTE for this role** = The multiple birth clinic is part of the regular role, therefore there is no clear WTE.
- c. **Please confirm what band this role is within your department** = Band 7.
- d. **How is this role funded?** = Through the existing sonography budget.
- e. **Please confirm who holds the contract and line management? (Email contact if able).**
The contract for all Sonographers is held by WWL, and the line manager for this post is the Lead Sonographer.

- a. **Please specify job title** = Consultant Obstetrician.
- b. **Please confirm WTE for this role** = The multiple birth clinic is part of the regular role, therefore there is no clear WTE.
- c. **Please confirm what band this role is within your department** = Consultant Grade.
- d. **How is this role funded?** = Through the existing Obstetric budget.
- e. **Please confirm who holds the contract and line management? (Email contact if able).**
The contract for all Obstetricians is held by WWL, and the line manager for this post is the Clinical Director for Obstetrics.

The Trust does not routinely give out email addresses and direct telephone numbers of staff members, as large numbers of unsolicited emails/telephone calls, could cause disruption by blocking email accounts/telephone lines thus preventing true work-related emails/calls from being delivered. However, any of the above staff can be contacted via main switchboard on 01942 244000.

- 3. **For the role of both the multiple birth specialist midwife and sonographer (if relevant) please provide:**
 - a. **If possible to access, the job description and specification, either in text or document form.**
There is no specialist job description or specification for the named midwife for multiple births or for the named sonographers for multiple births.
- 4. **The unit level data (from 2023 onwards) requested is for the following categories:**
 - **Number of Multiple Birth Pregnancies (e.g. twins, triplets, quads +)** = 91 pregnancies.
 - **Number of Foetuses delivered from a Multiple Birth** = 185 babies.
 - **Multiple Birth Still Births (number of babies)** = <5 babies.
 - **Multiple Birth pregnancies resulting in an Emergency C-Sections** = 69 births (34 pregnancies).
 - **Multiple Birth Neonatal Deaths (number of babies)** = <5 babies.
 - **Multiple Birth Neonatal Admissions (number of babies admitted to a neonatal unit for their care)** = 96 babies.

We are withholding the exact figure of still births and neonatal deaths 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.

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