

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/2024/9517

Date Received: 11th January 2024

Response Due: 8th February 2024

Date: 7th February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 11th January 2024, 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:

For the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, please provide:

- The number of midwifery "red flag" incidents (examples provided here: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng4/chapter/recommendations#box-3-midwifery-red-flag-events>) identified in your maternity departments, broken down by year**

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
22	0	27	21	28

- **If your organisation has other "red flag" incidents agreed locally, please specify what they are and how many occurred per year.**

There are two additional local Maternity Red Flags. These are "Unit on Divert" and "Co-Ordinator unable to remain supernumerary." These are included within the figures above, and below is the breakdown by year.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Unit on Divert	7	0	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Co-Ordinator unable to remain supernumerary	11	0	12	5	Less than 5

- Of these, please specify how many of these incidents (as a proportion - i.e. 65%, and the raw number) related to staffing levels. NHSE guidelines state that the midwife in charge should document whether midwifery staffing is the cause:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/safe-staffing-maternity-appendices.pdf>

	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
Staffing	0	0%	0	0%	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5

2. Please also specify the number of times patients needed to be diverted to other trusts to deliver their baby, broken down by year –

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Unit on Divert	7	0	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5

- Of those, please break down (again as a proportion and raw number) how many divers were
 - a) due to a lack of staff
 - b) for other reasons, please provide details

	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
Staffing	0	0%	0	0%	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Other	7	100%	0	0%	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	0	0%

2019 – Divers were due to bays being temporarily blocked due to a burst sewage pipe and due to acuity.

2021 – Less than 5

2022 – Less than 5

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ehsan Haqqani', is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Ehsan Haqqani
Associate Director of Governance & Patient Safety
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