

Ref. No: 0581
Date: 11/01/24
Subject: Midwifery Red-Flag Incidents

REQUEST

I am writing to request the following from your organisation under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

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

1. The number of midwifery "red flag" incidents identified in your maternity departments, broken down by year.
 - If your organisation has other "red flag" incidents agreed locally, please specify what they are and how many occurred per year.
 - 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>
2. Please also specify the number of times patients needed to be diverted to other trusts to deliver their baby, broken down by year.
 - Of those, please break down (again as a proportion and raw number) how many diversions were:
 - a) due to a lack of staff
 - b) for other reasons, please provide details

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

Please find information attached.