

Ref. No: FOI1926
Date: 17/07/2025
Subject: Maternal Healthcare

REQUEST & RESPONSE

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?)**

A) Midwife vacancies = 17.20 FTE
B) Obstetricians vacancies = 1.64 FTE

Midwife Headcount = 469
Consultant Obstetrician = 1.64

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?**

MWL Data from 01/01/2016 to 25/07/25

Total-Born and died within the Trust=199
Of these-
Neonatal deaths=36
Stillbirth=163

Ethnicity
White= 183
Mixed=6
Asian or Asian British=7
Black or Black British 1
Other=1
Missing/declined=1

Number of deaths reported on Mbrance – MWL

Calendar Year	Number of neonatal deaths	Number of stillbirths	Ethnicity
2016	7	20	White = 26 Other = 1
2017	7	20	White = 27

2018	2	22	White = 24
2019	2	15	White =17
2020	3	18	White=21
2021	2	12	White=13 Other 1
2022	4	19	White=22 Other=1
2023	4	12	White=15 Other=1
2024	3	6	White=8 Other=1

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

Please see attached

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
6276	6541	6341	6256	6005	6178	6153	5854	5779

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?

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Whiston	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0
Ormskirk	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

5. How many medical negligence suits have arisen from incidents in your maternity department in each of the past 10 years? How many resulted in a payment being made, and how much was paid out in each of the past 10 years?

Section 12 of the FOIA allows a public authority to refuse a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to comply with the request. The relevant section states:

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.

where the appropriate limit is equal to 18 hours of staff time as set by the *Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004*

In determining the time limit, the Trust can only take into account

- 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.

In order to determine whether the information is held in respect of your request, the Trust would need to all cases settled to see if any relate to the maternity department and review This will then be checked with NHS resolutions as some payments can be made as some cases can be paid without any admission of fault. A simple report cannot be produced.

Calculation – The trust estimates it will take in excess of of the time allowed to review what records we may have and then the NHS resolutions team will need to be contacted and they too will need to manually review every individual case.

Advice and Assistance

Under section 16 of the FOIA, advice and assistance should be provided to allow the request to come under the appropriate limit by scaling or modifying the request. If you wish to modify this request to a specific year it may be possible to obtain the trust numbers but this would also need to be verified with NHS resolutions which will also take this over the time allowed

Unfortunately, the Trust is unable to provide further assistance in this instance.

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

Please see attached

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

Please see attached

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

Please see attached

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

Please see attached

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

data re maternal requests for CS is not captured so we would not be able to provide information for this.

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

For St Helens and Knowsley the following –

BSL interpreters STHK sites

From 2017 till today you have used 94 BSL interpreters

Expenditure is total combined spend for Ormskirk and Whiston Maternity Departments

Maternity Services Interpreting Expenditure		
Financial Year	Dates	Annual Total Amount (£)
2015/16	Apr'15 to Mar'16	14,458
2016/17	Apr'16 to Mar'17	20,137
2017/18	Apr'17 to Mar'18	38,291
2018/19	Apr'18 to Mar'19	45,190
2019/20	Apr'19 to Mar'20	52,606
2020/21	Apr'20 to Mar'21	33,205
2021/22	Apr'21 to Mar'22	50,292
2022/23	Apr'22 to Mar'23	55,328
2023/24	Apr'23 to Mar'24	67,768
2024/25	Apr'24 to Mar'25	51,730
2025/26	Apr'25 to July'26	14,930
Grand Total		443,937

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

The maternal mental health service is commissioned in Cheshire and Merseyside and provided by Mersey care.

13. 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?

The maternal mental health service is commissioned in Cheshire and Merseyside and provided by Mersey care.