

Ref. No: 2379  
Date: 24/02/26  
Subject: Maternity care

## REQUEST

1. The number of FTE absence days caused by sickness recorded by obstetricians at your trust for each calendar year back to 2016.
  - a. The preference is for calendar years, but if the information is more easily recovered by financial years and converting to calendar years would make the request exceed the Section 12 cost limit, delivering the data by financial year would be okay. This applies to all questions covered in this request.
  - b. Likewise, if it would exceed the Section 12 cost limit to extract data beyond a certain year, providing data for as many years as would not exceed the limit would be okay. This also applies to all questions covered in this request.
  - c. Also, if FTE is not available but you have the data by raw number of sickness days, that would also be okay. This also applies to all relevant questions covered in this request.
  
2. The number of FTE absence days caused by sickness recorded by midwives at your trust, for each calendar year back to 2016.
  
3. The number of births recorded for each year back to 2016, organised by method of onset of labour and by duration of antenatal stay in days.
  - a. Please see as reference Table 2.b from the “Method of onset” tab in NHS Maternity Statistics, 2024-25: HES NHS Maternity Statistics Tables - <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-maternity-statistics/2024-25>
  - b. If the request is likely to be refused under Section 40 because it would be possible to identify individual patients due to the combination of method of onset and length of stay representing only a small number of patients, please group together all “Induction” cases, instead of splitting by “Surgical”, “Medical” and “Combined”.

If numbers are still too small, please group days as follows: "Same day", "1-2 days", "3-4 days", "5-6 days" and "7 or more days". If numbers are still too small, please put eg "range 0-5" rather than refusing the request outright because of this limitation.

4. The number of FTE bereavement midwives employed by your trust, for each calendar year back to 2016.
  - a. I understand that these numbers may also be low. I would like to confirm that I am requesting aggregate statistical information only and not requesting any information that would identify an individual. If you would consider that disclosure may raise issues under Section 40, I would be grateful if you could explain how identification would be reasonably likely in the circumstances, as per ICO guidelines.

## RESPONSE

Please see attached