

Ref. No: 0385  
Date: 27/10/23  
Subject: Birth Data

## REQUEST

Under the Freedom of Information Act please could you provide the following data for your Trust, broken down by each year for the previous five years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021,2022.

- Total live births
- Total stillbirths
- Term stillbirths (from 37 weeks or more)
- Total neonatal deaths
- The number of midwifery staffing red flags

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Year	Livebirths	Stillbirth	Stillbirth (>37 weeks)	Neonatal Deaths	Red Flags
2018	6,335	25	6	<5	34
2019	6,251	18	8	7	43
2020	6,010	18	<5	6	47
2021	6,186	14	<5	7	124
2022	6,172	19	<5	<5	42

### Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In

this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.