

Ref: FOI/2023/8630

Date Received: 20th January 2023

Response Due: 17th February 2023

Date: 16th February 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

I would like to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, the following information regarding miscarriages in maternity services.

PRIMARY DISCHARGE REASON (MOTHER MATERNITY SERVICES) is the primary reason that the mother was discharged from a Maternity Service.

1) The total number of cases with a Primary Discharge reason recorded and the total number of cases with a Primary Discharge reason of "Miscarriage".

Please can you provide the data with the following breakdowns:

- a) Yearly totals for the years 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017.**
- b) Level of deprivation of the mother, from 1-Most deprived to 10-Least deprived**
- c) Racial and/or Ethnic group of the mother, e.g. Asian, Black, White, etc.**

Please see the attached information.

2) Available support programs & groups mothers are signposted to after a miscarriage and, if applicable, criteria for receiving support.

We have set up a group for Baby Loss in Wigan, this group is open to all patients that have suffered baby loss.

Women who experience early pregnancy loss, receive a miscarriage pack containing miscarriage association leaflets, explaining what to expect and provide details on what support is available online. Included in the pack is a leaflet explaining our self-referral counselling service that we provide at Leigh Infirmary. We also provide patients with Cradle charity information, which is a free service that offers

online counselling workshops. The Trust also offers patients a memory box and we provide them with the contact details for the Trusts Gynaecology Assessment Unit (GAU), this is a 24-hour advice line should they need it.

Women who experience a mid-trimester loss receive all the above and are also referred to a bereavement midwife.

3) The total number of bereavement midwives employed by your trust, or any other staff/nurses specialised in supporting women after a miscarriage.

Please can you provide the data with the following breakdown:

a) Yearly for the years

Year	Number of Bereavement Midwives
2022	<5
2021	<5
2020	<5
2019	<5
2018	0
2017	0

Refusal Notice: Sec 40(2) Personal Information

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:

- a) 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
- b) 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 28 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Rabina Tindale
Chief Nurse & DIPC

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