



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

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Chief Nurse

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Ref: FOI/2025/10473

Date Received: 28th January 2025

Response Due: 25th February 2025

Date: 24th February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 28th January 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

I am writing to formally request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding your Antenatal and Postnatal wards. Specifically, I would like to inquire about the following:

- 1. Staffing Models: What are your current staffing models for your Antenatal and postnatal wards? Number of Midwives, nurses, maternity care assistants (separated into Band 2/3/4) and the ratio of staff to the number of beds**
 - Combined antenatal and postnatal ward consisting of 4 bays of 5 beds and 3 single bed side rooms. Total beds = 23.
 - The day shifts are staffed with 4 midwives and 2 maternity support workers (MSW) (band 3).
 - Night shifts are staffed with 3 midwives and 2 MSW.
 - On Tuesday's and Thursday's, we run elective caesarean theatre lists staffed by the ward. An additional 2 midwives are rostered on these days to facilitate the theatre lists, and an additional MSW on these nights.
 - Day ratio - 1 midwife:5/6 beds
 - Night ratio- 1 midwife:7/8 beds
- 2. Minimum Safe Staffing Levels and Ratios: Do you have minimum safe staffing levels and ratios established within your maternity wards? Do you have a minimum registered nursing staff to patient ratio on adult wards? If so what is this? Does this include babies within this figure or just women/birthing people?**

Birthrate+ is currently the only midwifery specific, national tool that gives the intelligence and insights needed to be able to model midwifery numbers, skill mix and deployment and to inform decision making about safe and sustainable services. The BR+ review identifies the numbers of both clinical and non-clinical midwives required based against activity and acuity within the service and includes 10% MSW's into the recommended establishment for postnatal care. WWL does not have any registered Nurses working within the Maternity services it is staffed by Registered Midwives and Maternity support workers (MSW'S). WWL is fully compliant with the recommendations of the Last Birthrate+ review and is due to have another completed later this year. Biannual staffing reviews are undertaken and any shortfalls identified are escalated. However, all vacant posts are either recruited to or in the recruitment process

3. Inductions of Labour: For commencing and ongoing inductions of labour prior to artificial rupture of membranes, do you have a minimum safe staffing ratio model within your Maternity unit? If so, what is this ratio?

All inductions of labour (IOL) are undertaken on Delivery suite. The designated IOL bay consists of 5 bays. There are 3 IOL 'slots' per day. The IOL bay is staffed by 1 midwife. Additional staffing will be redeployed if the numbers of ongoing Inductions are above 5.

4. Birthrate Plus Monitoring: Are you utilising Birthrate Plus to monitor your staffing levels? If so, can you provide the ward summary weekly reports data from June 2024 to December 31, 2024, regarding your Antenatal and Postnatal wards, including the relevant acuity data and any notes regarding additional steps taken when acuity is low or aspects contributing to lower acuity. If you do not have birthrate plus, how do you calculate your acuity data?

We have only recently implemented the Birth Rate Plus acuity tool onto our Postnatal/Antenatal ward, therefore training would be required to support with this task and retrieving the information would surpass the Section 12 requirements under the Freedom of Information Act. Please see below.

We are unable to provide this information as the information is not held in a reportable or structured format in our central system and records would have to be reviewed manually which would exceed the appropriate time limit. The Trust has to take into account the cost attributable to the time spent in locating, retrieving, and collating the information. We have therefore applied exemption Section 12 (4) (b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000-beyond appropriate limit. The appropriate limit is set at £450.00 (18hrs @ £25 per hour).

5. Complaints Data: Can you provide the number of formal complaints and concerns made between June 1 and December 31, 2024, specifically related to care in the Antenatal and Postnatal wards?

In this period, we received <5 complaints relating to care on the Antenatal and Postnatal ward.

6. Caesarean Birth Rate and Induction of Labour Rate: What was your Caesarean birth rate and induction of labour rate for the period of June 2024 to December 2024?

Rate for Caesarean Sections = 41.2%.

Rate for Induction of Labour = 31.9%. *This excludes augmentations.

The Trust has a standard procedure 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

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 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



KEVIN PARKER-EVANS

Kevin Parker-Evans MBA, FCI, CMgr, RN Dip HE

Chief Nursing Officer & Director of Infection Prevention and Control

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