



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters
Chief Nurse

Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan
WN1 2NN

T: 01942 773291

E: kevin.parker-evans@wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2024/10194

Date Received: 10th October 2024

Response Due: 7th November 2024

Date: 31st October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 10th October 2024, 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:

For each year from 2021-2023 inclusive [calendar or financial depending on the data is collected], please provide the number of:

1. Maternal deaths, as defined as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy

2021 = 0

2022 = 0

2023 = 0

2. The number of babies being born with confirmed or suspected Hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy (HIE 2 or 3 at term)

2021 = <5.

2022 = 6.

2023 = 5.

3. The number of stillbirths, intrapartum death, and early neonatal deaths.

	Still Births	Intrapartum Deaths	Early Neonatal Deaths
2021	0	0	0
2022	<5.	0	<5.
2023	<5.	0	<5.

*All babies mentioned in question 3 were under the care of WWL but died at other Trusts.

Please break down the data by year and by category.

If possible, please break down maternal death statistics by age and ethnicity of mother.

The Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

If possible, please provide the listed reason / explanation for each maternal death, neonatal death, intrapartum death, and stillbirth.

Please note the reasoning and explanation for each maternal death has been withheld under section 40(2) (personal information) of the Act. This is because releasing the reasoning would make individual patients identifiable.

Section 40(2) is an 'absolute' exemption, and the Trust is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

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 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, FCMJ, 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