

Ref: FOI/2023/9033

Date Received: 6th July 2023

Response Due: 3rd August 2023

Date: 28th July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the following:

1. How many times has your maternity unit been closed to new admissions for the following years:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of times your maternity has been closed	7	9	1	3	2	2
Total length of time closed (collectively added up)	37hrs 45mins	49hrs 55mins	15hrs	22hrs	14hrs 15mins	21hrs

2. Please can you give the reason behind your most recent closure?

Medical staff shortfall.

3. Can you note the reason for your longest closure over the last 5 years?

Bereavement of an in-service midwife during Covid pandemic.

4. If possible, can you note the number of patients affected by the most recent closure?

Less than 5.

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 40 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