

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_527_23

You asked:

For each of the years 2018-2023 please can you provide the following information under the FOI Act:

1. If the health board has met the safe maternity levels

The maternity service has an establishment that adheres to a Birthrate Plus assessment in 2019. An updated assessment was completed in 2023 and the appropriate recommendations for amendments to our staffing are currently being put into a paper for executive consideration.

Our escalation policy facilitates supports flexibility in staff working areas to meet acuity needs. It also enables restricting our services when acuity levels are high and safe staffing levels are challenged.

2. The number of days where the safe maternity levels were not met

Please see response to question 1..

3. The number of times each of the below red flag midwifery staffing incidents occurred in your health board

- a. Delayed or cancelled time critical activity.
- b. Missed or delayed care (for example, delay of 60 minutes or more in washing and suturing).
- c. Missed medication during an admission to hospital or midwifery-led unit (for example, diabetes medication).
- d. Delay of more than 30 minutes in providing pain relief.
- e. Delay of 30 minutes or more between presentation and triage.
- f. Full clinical examination not carried out when presenting in labour.
- g. Delay of 2 hours or more between admission for induction and beginning of process.
- h. Delayed recognition of and action on abnormal vital signs (for example, sepsis or urine output).
- i. Any occasion when 1 midwife is not able to provide continuous one-to-one care and support to a woman during established labour

Due to the way our clinical incidents are recorded via the Datix system, the following information can be provided to cover the issues identified in a-i as fully as possible:

Delay In medication Incidents Per Year:	
Year	Count of Category
2018	**
2019	12
2020	11
2021	**
2022	**

2023	7
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Delay in Care Incidents Per Year:	
Year	Count of Category
2015	**
2018	15
2019	24
2020	89
2021	131
2022	51
2023	26

Staffing Level Incidents Per Year:	
Year	Count of Category
2018	36
2019	38
2020	37
2021	71
2022	83
2023	39

Where the figures are less than 5, this has been denoted by **. The exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved.

Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. Also, responses under the Freedom of Information Act are made available to the public at large. The data is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.