



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_295_24

You asked:

I'd like to request some information under the Freedom of Information Act relating to childbirth injuries.

Over the past five financial years, could you tell me;

- 1. How many complaints have been made to your health board involving birth-related injuries to mothers? Could you please provide a breakdown of the figures by year.**

The Health Board does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required. We are unable to easily extract the specific data you require from our Datix Cymru reporting system. The only way our Datix Team could identify the required information would be carry out an individual review of all complaints received and discuss with the service.

As this is not information that the Health Board routinely compiles, we would have to carry out a specific exercise to collate this data. From our preliminary assessment, we estimate that to comply with your particular request would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is currently £450/18 hours.

- 2. The number of births, each year, resulting in one or more of the following;-**

- i. Third degree tearing (obstetric anal sphincter injury)**
 - ii. Fourth degree tearing (obstetric anal sphincter injury)**
 - iii. Other birth-related event resulting in emergency surgery (other than caesarean) – please provide as much context as possible.**
- Please specify the number of births followed by the type of injury/intervention/ result.**

Year	Births	Third degree tear	Fourth degree tear	Other birth event resulting in emergency surgery
2019	5007	110	7	Data not recorded centrally.
2020	4568	98	0	The information you require would be recorded within an individual patient's health record as part of their ongoing care. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.
2021	4595	82	**	
2022	4727	69	5	
2023	4607	67	5	

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.

3. The number of complaints referencing 'birth trauma', depression or PTSD as a direct result of a childbirth injury.

Please see response to question 1 (S12 applied).