

Date: 09/05/2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/014084 – Maternity Unit

Please find below the responses for the FOI request for Maternity.

1 How many 'red flag' events have occurred in your maternity units in this time frame? And are you able to say whether this is higher than the 12 month period preceding these dates? - 1 event, 1/4/17 to 31/3/18. The figure is lower than the previous 12 months

2 Have there been occasions where a woman has:  
Been left alone during active labour – none reported  
Had to wait more than hour an hour for pain relief – none reported  
Had to wait more than one hour for stitches – 1 reported

3 How many times between these dates have you been forced to close the maternity unit due to staff shortage or lack of beds? -  
The maternity unit has not closed during 1.4.17- 31.3.18. We have escalation level 3 where we divert women who call or attend via ambulance to other units during periods of extreme workload acquity and when staffing is deemed unsafe. Any women that arrive unannounced whilst the unit is on a level 3 are still seen, assessed and have appropriate care provided. If we are unable to divert women to other neighbouring maternity units due to their own workload or capacity issues the Maternity unit at Russells Hall is placed on a level 4 where we continue to accept women and provide care using our escalation policy.  
During the period 1.4.17 – 31.3.18 the unit was on a level 3 on 8 occasions and a level 4 on 2 occasions.

4 On how many occasions have wards been staffed with less than the Government recommended number of midwives? – There are no government targets for maternity staffing. We follow NICE guidance and use the birth-rate plus staffing tool and comply with a ratio of 1:28.

5 How many midwives are you currently short of in your Trust? How many posts are being advertised? (As of 19th April 2018) - 3 posts advertised

6 How many maternity negligence cases have been brought against you in the past 12 months? - No details to be released as there are claims currently open and on-going.

7 And finally, how many complaints have been made to your Trust regarding maternity services between the same dates. - 31