

Date: 23/04/2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/014725 – Infant deaths/maternity services

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information from The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust maternity services unit.

Could you please help me find the most recent statistics relating to infant deaths? I am looking for data since 2000 and onwards on the following, in excel format please.

1. Infant deaths
  - a. Total number
  - b. Stillbirths
  - c. Neonatal
  - d. Postneonatal
  - e. Babies who suffered serious harm during birth
  - f. Causes of death
  - g. Breakdown of points a–f by infant's ethnicity
  
2. Serious untoward incidents (SUI) in maternity services
  - a. Total number
  - b. How many led to death
  - c. How many led to a civil action being instigated
  - d. Breakdown of SUIs by infant's and mother's ethnicity
  - e. Breakdown of SUI cases that led to death by infant's and mother's ethnicity
  
3. Maternal deaths
  - a. Total number
  - b. Breakdown by ethnicity
  
4. Staff working in maternity services
  - a. Total medical staff
  - b. Total non-medical staff
  - c. Breakdown by ethnicity

Please see spreadsheet below

Figures only go back as far as 2013

**1. Infant deaths**

**a. Total number = 148** *Total figure inclusive of Stillbirths, Neonatal & Post-neonatal deaths.*

**b. Stillbirths**

*The Trust reports externally a crude still birth figure to "Mother and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK" (MBRRACE). These figures however go back to 2013.*

*Stillbirth defined as: Baby delivered from 24+0 weeks gestation showing no signs of life.*

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
18	14	20	17	14	14

**c. Neonatal**

*The Trust reports externally a crude neonatal deaths figure to MBRRACE.*

*These figures however go back to 2013.*

*Death of a live born baby (born at 20 weeks gestation of pregnancy) occurring within 28 completed days after birth.*

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
5	9	10	9	7	6

**d. Postneonatal**

*Defined as: Death of an infant between 28 days and one year of life, admitted to the Trust and discharged with a status of "deceased".*

**For the years 2013 to 2018 there were 5 deaths, due to the low number the Trust has not split this information into years**

**e. Babies who suffered serious harm during birth**

*Serious incidents during birth would be reported via the Trust's incident reporting system, see question 2*

**f. Causes of death**

The Trust clinically codes the Diagnosis and the Treatment of patients, it does not clinically code the cause of death.

A record of the cause of death is available for individual patients only, an electronic report is not available for a group of patients from a centralised reporting system. Access to individual patient records is exempt under Section 40 of the Data Protection Act 1998.

**g. Breakdown of points a-f by infant's ethnicity - identification of persons**

*Total figure inclusive of Stillbirths, Neonatal & Post-neonatal deaths.*

<b>WHITE - BRITISH</b>	107
<b>OTHER</b>	41

**2. Serious untoward incidents (SUI) in maternity services**

**a. Total number - 136** *During the time period requested categorisation of SUI changed, for some time after the change resulting in more SUI reports than required the Trust continued to report under the old categorisation*

**b. How many led to death - 11** *cannot say that the SUI led to death without reviewing notes and access to individual patient records is exempt under Section 40 of the Data Protection Act*

**c. How many led to a civil action being instigated - 7**

**d. Breakdown of SUIs by infant's and mother's ethnicity - Information not captured on our incident reporting system**

**e. Breakdown of SUI cases that led to death by infant's and mother's ethnicity - Information not captured on our incident reporting system**

**3. Maternal deaths**

**a. Total number -** *As per NHS Digital rules the Trust does not publish figures less than 5 as this could lead to the identification of persons involved*

*There were maternal deaths but they were indirect deaths.*

*The Trust reports externally a maternal death figure to MBRRACE.*

**b. Breakdown by ethnicity -** *As per NHS Digital rules the Trust does not publish figures less than 5 as this could lead to the identification of persons involved*

**4. Staff working in maternity services**

**a. Total medical staff** *Midwives 177 Doctors 28*

**b. Total non-medical staff** *support staff 53*

**c. Breakdown by ethnicity** *This would be held on personal file and personnel records/files are not accessible under the FOI Act*