

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/23/611**

**Maternity Staffing Levels**

**Information Requested:**

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 *staffing* levels
2. The number of days where the safe maternity *staffing* levels were not met
3. The number of times each of the below red flag midwifery staffing incidents occurred in your health board
  - Delayed or cancelled time critical activity.
  - Missed or delayed care (for example, delay of 60 minutes or more in washing and suturing).
  - Missed medication during an admission to hospital or midwifery-led unit (for example, diabetes medication).
  - Delay of more than 30 minutes in providing pain relief.
  - Delay of 30 minutes or more between presentation and triage.
  - Full clinical examination not carried out when presenting in labour.
  - Delay of 2 hours or more between admission for induction and beginning of process.
  - Delayed recognition of and action on abnormal vital signs (for example, sepsis or urine output).
  - Any occasion when 1 midwife is not able to provide continuous one-to-one care and support to a woman during established labour

**Response Details:**

**In response to question 1:**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has met the required staffing level in relation to its budgeted establishment. However, there are currently midwifery vacancies due to a higher level of maternity leave. Combining this with day-to-day sickness and annual leave entitlement provides a more accurate reflection of the Maternity Department's daily acuity.

**In response to questions 2 and 3:**

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within Regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the section 12 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within Regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the Fees Regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The Fees Regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.