GIG CYMRU NHS WALES | Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro | Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/333
Birth Injuries

Information Requested:

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.

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.

E.g.

2022 No. of births	Third degree tear	Fourth degree tear	Other birth event resulting in emergency surgery	

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

If you hold any other information relevant to the management of postpartum injuries that you think could give context or assist my understanding of the figures please also include it in your response.

Response Details:

1. 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 2004 specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.

2. Please see the below table.

Financial Year	Third-Degree Tearing	Fourth-Degree Tearing
2019/20	111	14
2020/21	85	7
2021/22	86	9
2022/23	90	5
2023/24	103	3

In completing a search for the information requested about other birth-related events resulting in emergency surgery, the UHB has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the appropriate limit as outlined in the Fees Regulations 2004, and is therefore refusing your request on the basis of section 12 of the 2000 Act.

3. The UHB can only provide information from after late 2021 regarding birth trauma. There have been seven specific concerns that have mentioned birth trauma as a primary reason for complaint in the past two and a half years.

   The UHB cannot provide further detail without contravening section 40 of the Act due to the nature of the personal data and the low numbers involved.