

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on Wednesday 20th March 2024. I am pleased to confirm the following.

For the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, please provide:

The number of midwifery "red flag" incidents (examples provided here: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng4/chapter/recommendations#box-3-midwifery-red-flag-events>) identified in your maternity departments, broken down by year

We are only able to provide calendar year data for 2023, this is due to Birthrate Plus acuity tool being implemented 2022, prior to this red flag data documented on paper.

In 2023 there were 238 red flags raised via the Birthrate Plus acuity tool.

If your organisation has other "red flag" incidents agreed locally, please specify what they are and how many occurred per year.

We do not have any agreed local red flags.

Of these, please specify how many of these incidents (as a proportion - i.e. 65%, and the raw number) related to staffing levels. NHSE guidelines state that the midwife in charge should document whether midwifery staffing is the cause: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/safe-staffing-maternity-aperdices.pdf>

As the Birthrate Plus app is an acuity tool it is likely that every red flag will have an element due to staffing levels.

Please also specify the number of times patients needed to be diverted to other trusts to deliver their baby, broken down by year

Of those, please break down (again as a proportion and raw number) how many diverts were.

a) due to a lack of staff

b) for other reasons, please provide details

We had no reported diversion of Service users from MKUH via the Birthrate Plus acuity tool.

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If you are unhappy with the information received in response to this request, please address your complaint to the Patient Affairs Office at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes MK6 5LD. If, after exhausting our internal process, you are still unhappy with the information received, you may write to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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