

22nd January 2025

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on Monday 13th January 2025. I am pleased to confirm the following.

1. Staffing Models: What are your current staffing models for your Antenatal and postnatal wards? Number of Midwives, nurses, maternity care assistants (separated into Band 2/3/4) and the ratio of staff to the number of beds

We have a mixed antenatal and postnatal ward.

Ward 9 / 10:

Day shift:

- 5 midwives (Band 5,6,7),
- 2 maternity support workers (Band 3),
- 1 nursery nurse (Band 4),
- 2 elective c section midwives,
- 1 midwife covering newborn immediate physical examination

Night shift:

- 5 midwives (Band 5,6,7),
- 2 maternity support workers (Band 3),
- 1 nursery nurse (Band 4)

Beds = 32

staff: bed ratio = 1:4

2. Minimum Safe Staffing Levels and Ratios: Do you have minimum safe staffing levels and ratios established within your maternity wards? Do you have a minimum registered nursing staff to patient ratio on adult wards? If so what is this?

Our planned Birth rate plus (BR+) establishment for midwife to births ratio is 1:24, our current ratio is 1:28 for Dec 2024

The Trust uses the Safer Nursing Care Tool to establish the nursing templates on the wards. On a day-to-day basis the Trust uses SafeCare to assess the care hours required against available workforce. There are no minimum safe staffing requirements as staffing is flexed to meet the required care hours across the Trust.

3. Inductions of Labour: For commencing and ongoing inductions of labour prior to artificial rupture of membranes, do you have a minimum safe staffing ratio model within your Maternity unit? If so what is this ratio?

We do not have a dedicated antenatal ward or induction of labour suite. Staffing ratios are as per question 1. BR+ acuity tool is used to identify acuity needs and staff deployment as per maternity escalation policy

4. Birthrate Plus Monitoring: Are you utilising Birthrate Plus to monitor your staffing levels? If so, can you provide the ward summary weekly reports data from June 2024 to December 31, 2024, regarding your Antenatal and Postnatal wards, including the relevant acuity data and any notes regarding additional steps taken when acuity is low or aspects contributing to lower acuity. If you do not have birthrate plus, how do you calculate your acuity data?

BR+ ward acuity tool was undergoing improvement works between June 2024 and August 2024 limiting reports to daily views. The available data from August 2024 - Dec 2024 does not meet the confidence factor for reliability and this is an ongoing piece of work.

5. Complaints Data: Can you provide the number of formal complaints and concerns made between June 1 and December 31, 2024, specifically related to care in the Antenatal and Postnatal wards?

3 formal complaints relating to antenatal care on the ward and 6 for the post-natal pathway of care on the ward

6. Caesarean Birth Rate and Induction of Labour Rate: What was your Caesarean birth rate and induction of labour rate for the period of June 2024 to December 2024?

Month (2024)	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Induction of Labour rate	27.9%	29.3%	28.6%	25.8%	27.7%	28.7%	32.6%
Caesarean Section rate	49.7%	47.2%	49.4%	47.2%	53.0%	49.5%	50.3%

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

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Administrator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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