

Reference:	FOI.5588.21
Subject:	Cord clamping
Date of Request:	15 March 2021

Requested:

Please provide under the FOI act, the figures for each of the last 5 years (please provide data for each calendar year data 2015-2020)

1. How many live births occurred in your organisation (please break this down to premature and term babies)
2. How many of these live births had cord clamping as being recorded at being at or after one minute? (please break this down to premature and term babies)
3. Please provide the numbers where cord clamping occurred before one minute (please break this down to premature and term babies)
4. How many times this was not documented (please break this down to premature and term babies)
5. Please provide any audits in the last 5 years on cord clamping times.
6. Is it mandatory to record the cord clamping time on any of your systems?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or (2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the information requested for questions 2, 3 and 4, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all labour patient notes, to identify any information that fulfils your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

The number average number of live births per year was 3275; therefore, conducting the search would far exceed the ‘appropriate level’, costing the UHB the following:

3275 @ 15 minutes per patient record = 818.75 hours
818.5 hours @ £25 per hours = £20,468.75

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

Under section 16 of the FOIA, we are required, as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under FOIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the information requested for questions 1, 5 and 6 below.

1. The UHB provides, with the table below, the number of live births within the UHB, for the calendar years 2015 to 2020.

Calendar year	Number of live births
2015	3508
2016	3433
2017	3284
2018	3165
2019	3057
2020	3201

5. The UHB confirms that no audits were undertaken in relation to cord clamping times, within the requested time period.
6. The UHB confirms that cord clamping times are recorded within the patient's paper labour notes.