

Reference:	FOI.11752.23
Subject:	Maternity attendances
Date of Request:	23 May 2023

Requested:

I would like monthly information covering the period April 2013 to March 2023 of the following:

- 1) Number of attendances to the Health Board with reduced foetal movement in the following format: number of RFM attendances, month.
- 2) Number of pre-term foetal deaths / miscarriages / still births after 24 weeks gestation in the following format: number of foetal deaths after 24 weeks gestation / still births, month.
- 3) Number of neonatal deaths within 7 days post-partum in the following format: number of neonatal deaths within 7 days, month.
- 4) Number of pre-partum and maternal deaths of the mother within 35 days post-partum in the following format: number of maternal deaths pre-partum or within 35 days post-partum, month.
- 5) Total number of maternity attendances in the following format: number of maternity attendances, month.

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 limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ 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 question 1, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all maternity patient records, for the requested ten (10) year period, to identify the information that would fulfil your request, as the data is not recorded centrally.

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.

However, 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 the FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds for questions 2 to 5 overleaf.

Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide you with the information broken down by month, as requested, due to the low number of cases (5 and under).

Furthermore, where the figures in the tables have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number, again due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the UHB is withholding these details under Section 40(2) of the FoIA.

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/UK GDPR define personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data, or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

2. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of pre-term foetal deaths/miscarriages/still births, after 24 weeks gestation, as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the 2013/14 through to 2022/23 financial years.

Financial year	Number
2013/14	15
2014/15	11
2015/16	17
2016/17	21
2017/18	21
2018/19	19
2019/20	10
2020/21	12
2021/22	11
2022/23	12

3. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of neonatal deaths within seven days post-partum, as recorded on the UHB's WPAS, during the 2013/14 through to 2022/23 financial years.

Financial year	Number
2013/14	*
2014/15	*
2015/16	*
2016/17	*
2017/18	*
2018/19	*
2019/20	7
2020/21	*
2021/22	*
2022/23	*
Total	34

4. The UHB confirms that there are no pre-partum or maternal deaths of the mother within 35 days post-partum recorded on the UHB's WPAS, during the 2013/14 through to 2022/23 financial years.

5. The UHB provides within the tables overleaf, the number of midwifery/obstetrics attendances, for outpatients and admissions of elective and non-elective procedures, as recorded on the UHB's WPAS, by month, during the 2013/14 through to 2022/23 financial years.

Number of maternity attendances					
Month	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
April	2,364	2,472	2,656	2,445	2,212
May	2,300	2,424	2,481	2,402	2,694
June	2,268	2,460	2,804	2,595	2,463
July	2,623	2,595	2,846	2,475	2,702
August	2,525	2,456	2,766	2,521	2,757
September	2,450	2,682	2,687	2,625	2,639
October	2,582	2,669	2,567	2,506	2,680
November	2,321	2,428	2,385	2,508	2,514
December	2,419	2,546	2,336	2,425	2,295
January	2,679	2,693	2,460	2,629	2,772
February	2,420	2,525	2,467	2,410	2,437
March	2,383	2,771	2,323	2,739	2,734

Number of maternity attendances					
Month	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
April	2,462	2,608	2,479	2,851	2,705
May	2,590	2,881	2,442	2,809	2,886
June	2,689	2,644	2,686	3,212	2,627
July	2,781	2,920	2,759	3,143	2,816
August	2,790	2,894	2,658	3,116	2,916
September	2,613	2,838	2,912	3,089	2,879
October	2,863	2,939	2,833	2,887	2,882
November	2,752	2,671	2,721	2,849	2,939
December	2,479	2,800	2,801	2,707	2,675
January	2,692	3,052	2,799	2,704	2,866
February	2,413	2,763	2,729	2,557	2,499
March	2,555	2,666	3,010	2,927	2,946

Please note:- the data provided within the tables above includes live birth numbers.