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| Reference: | FOI.1833.19 |
| Subject: | Patient safety incidents and maternity ward staffing |
| Date of Request: | 1 November 2019 |

Requested:

I would be grateful for your assistance with the following enquiry please

- Could you please provide me with information on the total number of recorded patient safety incidents relating to the health board's maternity services department between January 2010 and October 2019.
(Could you please provide a year by year breakdown?)
- Please could you also tell me how many times were shifts in the maternity department reported to be understaffed during the same period (Jan 2010 and October 2019).
(Could you please provide a year by year breakdown?)

Clarification:

"Patient safety incidents" would include any incidents which staff who report them, consider them to be a risk to the safety of patients in their care.

I understand that when such incidents are reported for the purpose of data collection, they are referred to as "patient safety incidents."

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 requested information, the UHB would need to manually scrutinise all patient safety records and rotas for the years 2010 to 2014, to identify any information that fulfils your request.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), 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 FOI, 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 FOI and therefore can provide you with some of the information requested.

The UHB can provide you with the patient safety incidents and understaffing incidents in the maternity department for the financial years 2015/16 to 2018/19 in the table below:

| Financial Year | Patient Safety Incidents | Understaffing Incidents |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2015/16 | 300 | 5 |
| 2016/17 | 236 | 6 |
| 2017/18 | 152 | 2 |
| 2018/19 | 106 | 6 |
| Total | 794 | 19 |

The UHB doesn't regularly have incidents of understaffing within its maternity services; typically, nine midwives are scheduled on shift in Glangwili General Hospital (GGH). However, should there be understaffing due to sickness or an unexpected surge in patients, the community midwives will be called upon to support the Midwifery Led Unit (MLU), whilst the MLU midwives will support labour ward. This practice is adopted across our wider maternity departments in Withybush General Hospital (WGH) and Bronglais General Hospital (BGH).