

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request**

**Date Request Received: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**FOI Ref No 28012**

**Requested Information:**

For each year, the data should be from 1 Jan - 31 Dec.

1. What was the number of stillbirths recorded in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
2. What was the number of maternal deaths recorded in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
3. What was the number of babies harmed\* during delivery in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
4. What was the number of mothers harmed\* during delivery in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
5. How many midwifery red flag events were there in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?  
- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guideline 4 'Safe midwifery staffing for maternity settings' describes a midwifery 'red flag' event as "a warning sign that something may be wrong with midwifery staffing" such as delays in medical reviews and maternity triage difficulties.
6. How many midwifery job vacancies were there in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?

**\*Definition of "harmed" which has been provided:**

**Harm to mothers**

Haemorrhage  
Failed intubation  
Local anaesthetic systemic toxicity  
Nerve damage  
3rd/4th degree tear  
Pelvic floor damage  
Incontinence  
Future sexual dysfunction  
Bladder injury  
Bowel injury  
Symphysis pubic dislocation  
Amniotic fluid embolism  
Deep vein thrombosis  
Sepsis and infection  
Uterine rupture

Uterine prolapse  
 Psychological trauma

**Harm to babies**

Hypoxia as a result of foetal distress (causing stillbirth/brain injury/long term neurological damage)  
 Fractures of humerus, clavicle, skull  
 Nerve damage  
 Meconium aspiration  
 Cephalhematoma  
 Sepsis and infection  
 Group B Streptococcus

**Response:**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Stillbirths term	4	2	6	2	2
2. Maternal deaths –	No direct maternal deaths	No direct maternal deaths	No direct maternal deaths	No direct maternal deaths	No direct maternal deaths
3. Babies Harmed	17	19	16	19	4
4. Mothers Harmed	116	148	75	90	91
5.Red flags	NA	Only started collecting data Nov 21. 10	36	25	22

- RCHT are unable to calculate the number of patients who experienced psychological trauma without manually reviewing each patients notes. We do offer a birth reflection service, though not all referrals are trauma related.
- We are unable to provide numbers for pelvic floor damage, Incontinence, future sexual dysfunction (we have included 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree tears in the numbers above).

6. Midwifery vacancies whole time equivalent (WTE) supplied as at end of year.

Month	Metric	Tab	Value
31/03/2020	Registered Midwives	Substantive Vacancies WTE	1.31
31/03/2021	Registered Midwives	Substantive Vacancies WTE	-3.99
31/03/2022	Registered Midwives	Substantive Vacancies WTE	3.01
31/03/2023	Registered Midwives	Substantive Vacancies WTE	7.35
31/03/2024	Registered Midwives	Substantive Vacancies WTE	-2.07

**Attachment(s):**

No Attachments

**Date Response sent: 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025**