

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 21st July 2025

FOI Ref No 29642

Requested Information:

1.
 - a. How many vacancies do you currently have for
 - i. Midwives
 - ii. obstetricians?
 - b. And how many members of staff do you currently have in both those roles?
2.
 - a. What is the number of stillbirths and neonatal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years?
 - b. And what was the recorded ethnicity of those who died, if the data is available?
3. How many live births were recorded at your trust/board in each of the past 10 years?
4.
 - a. What is the number of maternal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years?
 - b. And what was the recorded ethnicity of those who died?
5. How many medical negligence suits have arisen from incidents in your maternity department in each of the past 10 years?
6. How many resulted in a payment being made, and how much was paid out in each of the past 10 years?
7. How many third- and fourth-degree tears have you recorded for each of the past 10 years?
8. What are your current rates of forceps use, if you keep data on this?
9. What are your current rates of ventouse assisted deliveries, if you keep data on this?
10. How many emergency caesarean sections have you carried out in each of the past 10 years?
11.
 - a. How many Maternal Request Caesareans were made to staff in each of the past 10 years?
 - b. And how many were approved?
12. How much did your trust/board pay for use of interpreters in its maternity department in each of the past 10 years?

13. How many people have been seen (had an appointment) as part of any MMHS (Maternal Mental Health Service) in the past year?

14.

- a. How many people have been referred to any MMHS in the past year?
- b. And what is the average waiting time to be seen by any MMHS in the past year?

Response:

1.

a.

i. 9.63

ii. 1

b. Midwives: 161.91 in post, Obstetricians: 7.5 in post

2.

Year	Number of Stillbirths	Recorded Ethnicity of Stillbirths	Number of Neonatal Deaths	Recorded Ethnicity of Neonatal Deaths
2015	14	White British: 12 Any other white background: 2	11	Not Available
2016	13	White British: 12 White German: 1	7	White British: 7
2017	13	White British: 13	4	White British: 4
2018	20	White British: 20 Asian: 1	7	White British: 5 Asian: 2
2019	19	White British: 19	4	White British: 4
2020	15	White British: 15	5	White British: 5
2021	9	White British: 8 Black African: 1	3	White British: 3
2022	12	White British: 12	4	White British: 4
2023	8	White British: 8	2	White British: 2
2024	5	White British: 5	6	White British: 6
2025	6	White British: 5 Black African: 1	2	White British: 2

3.

Year	Number of Live births
2015/16	4414
2016/17	4274
2017/18	4212
2018/19	4077
2019/20	3947
2020/21	3945
2021/22	4020
2022/23	3779
2023/24	3618
2024/25	3424

4.

Year	Number of Maternal Deaths	Recorded Ethnicity
2016	0	
2017	0	
2018	0	
2019	1 (indirect)	White British
2020	3 (indirect)	White British: 3
2021	3 (indirect)	White British: 3
2022	0	
2023	1 (indirect)	White British
2024	3 (indirect)	White British: 3
2025	1 (indirect)	White British

5. This information is already in the public domain and can be found here [Annual statistics - NHS Resolution](#)

For ease of reference, we attach a table of the Trust's obstetric claims with the data drawn from the publicly available statistics from NHS Resolution. See appendix one. Data for financial year 2024/2025 is not yet available.

6. Please see above

7.

Year	Number of third and fourth-degree tears recorded
2015/16	90
2016/17	96
2017/18	89
2018/19	53
2019/20	58
2020/21	86
2021/22	81
2022/23	48
2023/24	51
2024/25	53

8. For the period January 2025 – March 2025, the average use of forceps was 11%

9. For the period January 2025 – March 2025, the average use of ventouse was 4%

10.

Year	Number of Emergency Caesareans
2015/16	533
2016/17	440
2017/18	455
2018/19	465
2019/20	484
2020/21	464
2021/22	513
2022/23	584
2023/24	542
2024/25	641

- 11.
- a. This data cannot be pulled as it would have been handwritten in patient notes.
 - b.

Year	Number of Requested Caesareans Approved
2015/16	Not Available
2016/17	Not Available
2017/18	Only Available from Nov 2017: 19
2018/19	48
2019/20	49
2020/21	57
2021/22	106
2022/23	122
2023/24	155
2024/25	155

12.

Year	Sum of Amount
2017/18	2,781.65
2018/19	8,746.19
2019/20	5,869.07
2020/21	5,072.23
2021/22	12,251.69
2022/23	12,092.45
2023/24	7,412.82
2024/25	26,949.05
2025/26 April 25 - June 25	10,432.05
Grand Total	91,607.20

The Trust's finance system only goes back to 2017, so this is the earliest data.

13. 144 pregnant and birthing people were supported by the Perinatal Mental Health Midwives and Maternity Support Workers in the WREN (Women Requiring Extra Nurturing) team, Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust (RCHT), in the past year.

14.

- a. 171 people were referred to the Perinatal Mental Health Midwives in the Wren team, RCHT, in the past year.
 - Due to changes within the team, the Wren Perinatal Mental Health Service was closed to referrals/offered a reduced service from July 2024 until July 2025. The numbers included above are despite closure to referrals, but were, however, in response to duty and emergencies that arose during this time.
- b. The Wren team aims to contact pregnant and birthing people within 2 weeks from the date of triage.

Attachment(s):

Appendix one – FOI Ref 29642 RCHT Maternity Claims and Payments, April 2014 – March 2024

Date Response sent: 7th August 2025