FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

REF: 2026-159
Subject: Sky News FOI Request on Maternity Care

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your email dated **24/02/2026** where you requested information about **Sky News FOI Request on Maternity Care.**

The information you requested is enclosed.

Question	Answer
1. The number of FTE absence days caused by sickness recorded by obstetricians at your trust for each calendar year back to 2016. a. The preference is for calendar years, but if the information is more easily recovered by financial years and converting to calendar years would make the request exceed the Section 12 cost limit, delivering the data by financial year would be okay. This applies to all questions covered in this request. b. Likewise, if it would exceed the Section 12 cost limit to extract data beyond a certain year, providing data for as many years as would not exceed the limit would be okay. This also applies to all questions covered in this request. c. Also, if FTE is not available but you have the data by raw number of sickness days, that would also be okay. This also applies to all relevant questions covered in this request.	Please find attached
2. The number of FTE absence days caused by sickness recorded by midwives at your trust, for each calendar year back to 2016.	
3. The number of births recorded for each year back to 2016, organised by method of onset of labour and by duration of antenatal stay in days. a. Please see as reference Table 2.b from the "Method of onset" tab in NHS	

Maternity Statistics, 2024-25: HES NHS Maternity Statistics Tables - https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-maternity-statistics/2024-25 b. If the request is likely to be refused under Section 40 because it would be possible to identify individual patients due to the combination of method of onset and length of stay representing only a small number of patients, please group together all "Induction" cases, instead of splitting by "Surgical", "Medical" and "Combined". If numbers are still too small, please group days as follows: "Same day", "1-2 days", "3-4 days", "5-6 days" and "7 or more days". If numbers are still too small, please put eg "range 0-5" rather than refusing the request outright because of this limitation.	
4. The number of FTE bereavement midwives employed by your trust, for each calendar year back to 2016. a. I understand that these numbers may also be low. I would like to confirm that I am requesting aggregate statistical information only and not requesting any information that would identify an individual. If you would consider that disclosure may raise issues under Section 40, I would be grateful if you could explain how identification would be reasonably likely in the circumstances, as per ICO guidelines.	

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Department. It would be helpful to quote the above reference number in any future communication.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to The Chief Executive, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, The Royal Bolton Hospital, Minerva Road, Farnworth, Bolton. BL4 0JR.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally the Information Commissioner cannot make

a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Bolton NHS Foundation Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 5AF.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright Design and Patents Act 1998. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other reuse, for example commercial publication requires the permission of the Trust. You must ensure you gain the Trust permission before reproducing any third party information.

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Department

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust
01204 390861
FOI@boltonft.nhs.uk
Informatics Building | Opposite N Block | Royal Bolton Hospital

Improving care,
transforming lives...for a better Bolton