



Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request Ref: NGFOI 18/19: 48

Thank you for your request for information received at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust (NGH) on 19/04/2018.

I am pleased to be able to provide you with the following information.

1. *How many 'red flag' events have occurred in your maternity units in this time frame? (1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018) And are you able to say whether this is higher than the 12 month period preceding these dates?*

There were 43 Midwifery 'red flag' events recorded on the Trust's Datix Incident Management system during the timeframe compared to 9 Midwifery 'red flag' events recorded in the 12 month period preceding these dates.

2. *Have there been occasions where a woman has:*

- a) *Been left alone during active labour?*

None reported

- b) *Had to wait more than hour an hour for pain relief?*

The Trust does not hold any information on how many women had to wait more than an hour for pain relief. The 'red flag' event we record is 'Delay of more than 30 minutes in providing pain relief'. There were 3 occasions on the postnatal wards where this was reported. No occasions were reported for women in labour.

- c) *Had to wait more than one hour for stitches?*

None reported

3. *How many times between these dates have you been forced to close the maternity unit due to staff shortage or lack of beds?*

The maternity unit was closed on four occasions – all due to high activity and bed capacity

4. *On how many occasions have wards been staffed with less than the Government recommended number of midwives?*

The Government do not stipulate the recommended number of midwives to staff maternity ward areas. In February 2015, NICE published a safe staffing guideline for midwives working in maternity settings and the maternity services follow this guidance. From June 2014 all hospitals are required to publish information about the numbers of nurses, midwives and support workers per shift, together with the percentage of shifts meeting safe staffing guidelines. These reports can be accessed via the Northampton General Hospital website. <http://www.northamptongeneral.nhs.uk/About/Quality-and-Safety/Safer-staffing.aspx>

5. *How many midwives are you currently short of in your Trust? How many posts are being advertised? (As of 19th April 2018)*

There are currently no midwifery vacancies within the Trust.

6. *How many maternity negligence cases have been brought against you in the past 12 months?*

The Trust received 9 maternity claims in the last 12 months. These claims relate to deliveries that occurred between 2014 – 2017.

7. *And finally, how many complaints have been made to your Trust regarding maternity services between the same dates.*

The Trust received 9 complaints between 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018.