

8 September 2025

Maternal Healthcare

1. How many vacancies do you currently have for a) midwives; b) obstetricians?

Midwives – 42 wte

Consultant obstetricians – 1.34 wte

2. (And how many members of staff do you currently have in both those roles?)

Midwives – 239 wte

Consultant obstetricians – 15.23 wte

3. What is the number of stillbirths and neonatal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years?

In attached document, please note where numbers are low we have indicated <5 rather than give the exact figure. We feel that providing the exact figure has the potential to make people identifiable and so that information is exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

4. What was the recorded ethnicity of those who died, if the data is available?

Ethnicity not recorded for Neonatal Deaths

5. How many live births were recorded at your trust/board in each of the past 10 years?

In attached document

6. What is the number of maternal deaths recorded in your trust/board in each of the past 10 years?

This information is not held by the Belfast Trust, please contact the Public Health Agency who holds this information: foi.pha@hscni.net.

7. And what was the recorded ethnicity of those who died?

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8. How many medical negligence suits have arisen from incidents in your maternity department in each of the past 10 years?

01/04/2015:31/03/2016	3
01/04/2016:31/03/2017	11
01/04/2017:31/03/2018	20
01/04/2018:31/03/2019	17
01/04/2019:31/03/2020	18
01/04/2020:31/03/2021	27
01/04/2021:31/03/2022	23
01/04/2022:31/03/2023	19
01/04/2023:31/03/2024	18
01/04/2024:31/03/2025	11
TOTAL:	167

9. How many resulted in a payment being made, and how much was paid out in each of the past 10 years?

	EXPENDITURE IN THIS TABLE IS FOR CASES OPENED BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2015 AND 31 MARCH 2025 WITH INCIDENT DATE IN THE SAME DATE-RANGE AND SETTLED DATE IN THE SAME DATE-RANGE.			Number of Maternity Department MN cases SETTLED in each of these years
	DAMAGES	COSTS	TOTAL	
01/04/2015:31/03/2016	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0
01/04/2016:31/03/2017	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0
01/04/2017:31/03/2018	£60,000.00	£3,900.00	£63,900.00	1
01/04/2018:31/03/2019	£0.00	£37,587.72	£37,587.72	0
01/04/2019:31/03/2020	£10,000.00	£6,941.40	£16,941.40	1
01/04/2020:31/03/2021	£60,000.00	£31,798.99	£91,798.99	1
01/04/2021:31/03/2022	£33,000.00	£35,883.33	£68,883.33	3
01/04/2022:31/03/2023	£173,890.00	£41,743.00	£215,633.00	2
01/04/2023:31/03/2024	£152,500.00	£133,893.79	£286,393.79	6
01/04/2024:31/03/2025	£271,250.00	£182,853.46	£454,103.46	6
TOTALS:	£760,640.00	£474,601.69	£1,235,241.69	20

10. How many third- and fourth-degree tears have you recorded for each of the past 10 years?

In attached document

11. What are your current rates of forceps use, if you keep data on this?

In attached document

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12. What are your current rates of ventouse assisted deliveries, if you keep data on this?

In attached document

13. How many emergency caesarean sections have you carried out in each of the past 10 years?

In attached document

14. How many Maternal Request Caesareans were made to staff in each of the past 10 years, and how many were approved?

In attached document

15. How much did your trust/board pay for use of interpreters in its maternity department in each of the past 10 years?

Directorate P24 Maternity Services	
Row Labels	Sum of Amount
2015	65.53
2016	30.71
2019	162.88
2020	329.56
2021	159.47
2022	164.97
2023	2193.15
2024	3073.07
2025	706.78
Grand Total	£6886.12

16. How many people have received treatment as part of any MMHS (Maternal Mental Health Service) in the past year?

151

17. How many people are on the waiting list to receive treatment from the MMHS right now?

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18. And how long is the average waiting time for treatment?

23 days