

26 September 2023

Belfast Trust Maternity Services

- 1. The number of FTE funded midwife posts there are for each maternity service at your board?**

There is a single Maternity Service in Belfast Trust.

Midwifery funded FTE = 277.53

- 2. The number of FTE funded midwife posts for each maternity service at your board which were vacant as of the start of August 2023 (excluding those on maternity or long term sick leave where sick leave has lasted for one month or longer)?**

Vacancies as at 31 July 2023 = 10.23

- 3. The number of FTE funded midwife posts for each maternity service at your board which were vacant as of 1st May 2023 (excluding those on maternity or long term sick leave where sick leave has lasted for one month or longer)?**

Belfast Trust does not hold information for the date requested. However on 31 May 2023 there were 10.23 FTE vacant midwifery posts.

- 4. The date of the most recent Birthrate Plus study of midwifery staffing for each service within your board?**

July 2022

- 5. The number of FTE funded midwife posts that Birthrate Plus recommended your trust employ for each maternity service at your board?**

26 September 2023

Birthrate Plus recommendation = 287.46 FTE

6. For each of the last five years, how many red flag events have been recorded for each of the board's maternity services?

Following request for clarification: We are interested in midwifery red flag events such as:

- **delayed or cancelled time-critical activity**
- **missed or delayed care (eg delay of 60 minutes or more in washing and suturing)**
- **missed medication during an admission to hospital or midwifery-led unit (eg diabetes medication)**
- **delay of more than 30 minutes in providing pain relief**
- **delay of 30 minutes or more between presentation and triage**
- **full clinical examination not carried out when presenting in labour**
- **delay of two hours or more between admission for induction and start of the process**
- **delayed recognition of and action on abnormal vital signs (eg sepsis or urine output)**
- **any occasion when one midwife is unable to provide continuous one-to-one care support to a woman during established labour.**
- **Other midwifery red flags may be agreed locally.**

Belfast Trust does not record red flag events in this way and this information is not held centrally. To provide this information would require an extensive trawl of patient notes.

We estimate that compliance with this request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.