

Ref. No: 275
From: Commercial
Date: 20/01/23
Subject: Miscarriage support

REQUEST

I would like to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, the following information regarding miscarriages in maternity services.

Primary Discharge Reason (Mother Maternity Services) is the primary reason that the mother was discharged from a Maternity Service.

1. The total number of cases with a Primary Discharge reason recorded and the total number of cases with a Primary Discharge reason of "Miscarriage".

Please can you provide the data with the following breakdowns:

- a) Yearly totals for the years 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017.
 - b) Level of deprivation of the mother, from 1-Most deprived to 10-Least deprived
 - c) Racial and/or Ethnic group of the mother, e.g. Asian, Black, White, etc.
2. Available support programs & groups mothers are signposted to after a miscarriage and, if applicable, criteria for receiving support.
 3. The total number of bereavement midwives employed by your Trust, or any other staff / nurses specialised in supporting women after a miscarriage.

Please can you provide the data with the following breakdown:

- a) Yearly for the years 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017.

Please could you provide the information in the form of an CSV or other spreadsheet file.

RESPONSE

- 1. The total number of cases with a Primary Discharge reason recorded and the total number of cases with a Primary Discharge reason of “Miscarriage”.**

Year	No. of Miscarriages
2017	32
2018	26
2019	31
2020	24
2021	20
2022	32

* The Trust does not hold the deprivation data requested.

** The Trust is unable to provide the ethnic breakdown of patients, as to do so would potentially enable the identification of individuals and facilitate the exact calculation of figures, where the figure is five or less.

Section 40: Personal Information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of five or less, due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018.

In such circumstances sections 40(2) and 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply, and in this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

- 2. Available support programs & groups mothers are signposted to after a miscarriage and, if applicable, criteria for receiving support.**

The Trust provides patients and their families with support literature for local and national support groups, and where required, information is sourced in alternative languages.

- 3. The total number of bereavement midwives employed by your Trust, or any other staff / nurses specialised in supporting women after a miscarriage.**

The Trust employed two bereavement midwives between 2017 and 2021. Meanwhile, the Trust currently employs one bereavement midwife and a support nurse.