

15<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your recent follow-up Freedom of Information request regarding Safe Midwifery Staffing for Maternity settings at Homerton Hospital Trust.

The Trust can provide the following information:

**The answers are in regards to the questions asked in the attached FOI request**

- 1. Since the publication of the Safe midwife staffing for maternity settings, has the Trust Board reviewed as an agenda item, the midwifery staffing establishment for your Trust's maternity services?**

**Yes**

- 3. If yes what are the main finding of the review?**

**The review was carried out in response to a number of poor maternal outcomes.**

- 4. What if any recommendations did the review make about midwifery staffing?**

**Increase in the number of midwives to maintain the 1:30 ratio**

- 5. What decisions did the Board make in relation to any recommendations arising from review?**

**To add the maternity dashboard exception report as an agenda item for every meeting**

- 6. Does your Trust have in place procedures for monitoring and responding to daily fluctuations in demand for midwives?**

**The Trust has a maternity staffing and escalation guideline**

- 7. If yes, please provide a copy of or details of the procedures that are in place.**

**The Trust has a documented process of instigating an activity review meeting with key senior members of the maternity team, to review staffing, beds, acuity and whether we need to apply the Pan London divert policy.**

- 8. Midwifery red flags are intended to prompt an immediate response from the person in charge of midwifery staffing in a setting or on a shift. Does your Trust have a list of agreed midwifery red flags?**

**The Trust is in the process of revising the staffing and escalation policy and is currently discussing and agreeing red flags. Red flags that we have on our maternity dashboard give us the ability to provide 1:1 care in labour. Supernumerary Coordinator – we monitor on 6 hourly basis whether the person in charge of the delivery suite is a supernumerary Coordinator (not having to provide care to a woman on our delivery suite). Delay in suturing more than 1 hour.**

**9. If yes, please provide details of the red flags that have been agreed for your Trust's maternity services?**

**Additional red flags that we are in the process of agreeing to; more than 3 temporary staff on per shift, delay of 30 minutes between presenting and triaging and the inability of staff to take full break entitlement.**

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at [foi@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@homerton.nhs.uk) , in the first instance. If, following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk) to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

Mike Dunne  
Information Governance Manager/Deputy Calidcott Guardian