

21 October 2022

Dear

ATISN 16696 – Births Data

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information received on 28 September 2022 relating to baby deaths and brain injuries in Wales which will be dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) (FOIA). You have requested the following:

How many full-term babies (at least 37+0 completed weeks of gestation) have been born in Wales per year (calendar or financial year) since 2018, per outcome, for each of the following outcomes:

- *Intrapartum stillbirth: when the baby was thought to be alive at the start of labour but was born with no signs of life.*
- *Early neonatal death: when the baby died within the first week of life (i.e. days 0–6) of any cause.*
- *Severe brain injury diagnosed in the first 7 days of life, when the baby:*
 - *Was diagnosed with grade III hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy (HIE) OR*
 - *Was therapeutically cooled (active cooling only) OR*
 - *Had decreased central tone AND was comatose AND had seizures of any kind.*

Our Response

- The Welsh Government only holds data on birth outcome and gestation through an extract from the National Community Child Health Database, so we are only able to answer the first part of the request.

The data for stillbirths born at gestations 37+0 completed weeks of gestation is provided below in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of full term live and stillbirths in Wales, 2018-2021

Year	Full term live births	Full term stillbirths
2018	28,181	41
2019	26,736	36
2020	25,825	32
2021	25,855	29

- Table 1 will be published on our website shortly. Other related, published data on maternity and births is available on our [Statistics and Research pages on our website](#). Further related published data on child mortality is available from the ONS, which uses birth and death registration information: [Child mortality \(death cohort\)](#)

[tables in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk) The data in Table 17 is broken down by gestational age, but is for England and Wales combined.

- The Welsh Government does not hold the information in relation to neonatal deaths and babies with brain injuries. This information may be available from individual health boards and I have provided a link below of their contact points which you may find helpful:

<https://www.wales.nhs.uk/nhswalesaboutus/freedomofinformation/makingfreedomofinformationrequests>

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,