

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 2950

Please reply to:
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04 January 2016

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to the number of VBAC's allowed at Maidstone Birth Centre.

Please tell me the exact number of VBACs which have taken place over the last 5 years at Maidstone Birth Centre.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust do not accept women who have previously had a caesarean section at the Birth Centre because they are considered unsuitable for birthing in an out of hospital setting.

If a woman with a previous caesarean section arrives at the Birth centre in labour, the centre would instantly arrange transfer to Tunbridge Wells hospital. On the rare occasions where transfer has not been possible in these circumstances as labour was too advanced and the birth was imminent, the baby has been delivered without incident at the Birth centre.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust do not hold this information electronically and in order to find the exact figure the notes of each mother who came into the Birth Centre would need to be manually searched to see if she had previously had a caesarean section.

The Trust has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to comply with this part of your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.