

Maidstone and 
Tunbridge Wells

NHS Trust

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3393

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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 patient discharges 2011 – 2016.

(a) Total number of patients discharged by the Trust between 11pm and 6am in each of the last six financial years

(b) Total number of patients discharged by the Trust in each of the last six years

Please see the table below:

Financial Year	2011/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Total discharges	104,793	105,650	112,991	120,438	129,469	131,982
Of which were discharged between 11:00pm and 6:00am	5,464	4,341	3,085	3,528	4,388	3,768

This is total discharges i.e. elective and emergency, for all specialties.

More than half of these overnight discharges are from the Clinical Decision Unit or Medical Assessment wards attached to A&E when patients, often accompanied by friends or family, elect to leave when no further medical intervention is required.

Another quarter of these patients are from Hedgehog – a children’s ward that takes emergency admissions from A&E. The same thing applies here – if the patient is well enough to leave and the parents happy to do so, a discharge in

the middle of the night may be preferable when no further medical intervention is required.

Medical discharge includes those cases where the family is pressurising for an early discharge and the consultant considers the patient to be medically fit for discharge.