

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3551

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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 Midwifery Led Units.

- 1. Do you have an MLU (can you state where it is situated in relation to your maternity dept. please)*
- 2. Should you have an MLU; have you seen an increase in births since the MLU's introduction and has your C Section rate dropped.*

1. Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust have 2 standalone midwifery lead units- Maidstone and Crowborough, a few miles away from the acute obstetric site at Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury.

2. Maidstone has been a choice option for women for 5 years and over 400/ year have their baby there- 8% of total births (5700/ annum)
We took over the management of Crowborough 1st April this year and the numbers are steadily increasing as it remains open 24 hours/ day
There is not a marked change in the birth rate but the normal birth rate for women who attend the birth centres is 88% and the quality of the service is well received and highly regarded by women who use these facilities