Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6893

17 August 2021

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 Maternity services.

You asked:

1. *The number of times each maternity ward within your trust had to close to new admissions during the period 1st January 2021 – 30th June 2021 (inclusive). Please also indicate any times that each unit had invoked escalate to divert procedures, or similar. For each instance please specify the duration in which the ward closed and the reason for the closure.*
2. *The number of times each maternity ward within your trust reached full capacity during the period 1st January 2021 – 30th June 2021 (inclusive)*
3. *The percentage of qualified midwifery staff employed within each maternity department across your Trust that completed their mandatory training requirements as of 30th June (if it is not possible to provide figures for a single date, please provide for the month of June). Please also confirm the Trust's or local target for number of midwifery staff to have completed mandatory training.*
4. *The total number of open vacancies in each maternity department across your trust as at the date of responding. Where possible please provide a breakdown by staff level i.e. band 5, band 6 and state whether these are unfilled vacancies.*

Trust response:
Please note - the request uses the term Maternity Wards. The response is for Maternity Units (i.e. Tunbridge Wells Hospital, TWH, Maidstone Birth Centre, MBC, and Crowborough Birth Centre, CBC.
Maternity staff are deployed across the maternity wards within TWH and across sites as required.

1.
Maternity units closed to admissions Jan – Jun 2021.
Where MBC remains open, women with low risk pregnancies are given the option to divert to MBC when TWH is closed.

Date of closure	Jan	April	April	May	May	June	June
Reason for closure TWH	Lack of beds / staff	Lack of beds / staff	Lack of beds / staff	Open	Lack of staff	Lack of staff	Lack of staff
Reason for closure MBC	Lack of beds / staff	Lack of beds / staff	Lack of beds / staff	Possible gas leak	Lack of staff	Lack of staff	Open
Reason for closure CBC	See below	See below	See below	See below	See below	See below	See below
Duration of closure	Not recorded	Not recorded	7 hours	12 hours	22 hours	9 hours	21 hours

Labour and birth services at CBC have been temporarily suspended since January 2021 due to staff shortages. Community antenatal and postnatal services continue with a limited staff base.

2.
The times that the "wards" or units reach capacity is reflected in the number of times that the units closed due to lack of beds. However, one could argue that capacity is also reached when there are insufficient staff to provide care.

3.
The training compliance is recorded for the whole midwifery staff group – June 2021
Compliance with multi-disciplinary obstetric emergency training: 97%
Compliance with other mandatory training: 70%
The target for all training is 100%, with > 95% considered acceptable.
4.
Currently 1 WTE vacancy – post filled, awaiting start date
An additional 12 WTE posts have been created and appointed to, awaiting start dates