

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6783

**Please reply to:**  
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19 October 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 unit closures.

*You asked:*

- a) On how many occasions was the maternity unit closed to new admissions in 2020/21?*  
*b) For each such occasion, please state the duration of and the reason for the closure.*

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.

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.

Where MBC remains open, women with low risk pregnancies are given the option to divert to MBC when TWH is closed.

Date of closure	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	Apr-21
Reason for closure TWH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Lack of beds	Lack of beds / staff	0	0	Lack of beds / staff	Lack of beds / staff
Reason for closure MBC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Lack of beds	Lack of beds / staff	0	0	Lack of beds / staff	Lack of beds / staff
Reason for closure CBC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Lack of beds	See above	0	0	See above	See above
Duration of closure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<6hours	Not recorded	0	0	Not recorded	7 hours

