

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6591

Please reply to:
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Trust Management
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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 Maternity unit closures.

You asked:

- 1. On how many occasions has your maternity unit been closed to new admissions in each year of 2018, 2019 and 2020. Please supply figures for the calendar rather than financial year.*
- 2. For each closure, 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.

Please see the following tables:

Date of closure	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Total of closures Jan-Dec
Reason for closure TWH	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	3
Reason for closure MBC	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	3
Reason for closure CBC	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	3
Duration of closure	Not applicable	Not recorded	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not recorded	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not recorded	Not applicable	Not applicable	

Date of closure	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Total of closures Jan-Dec
Reason for closure TWH	Reason not recorded	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	2
Reason for closure MBC	Reason not recorded	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	2
Reason for closure CBC	Reason not recorded	Zero	Reason not recorded	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	2
Duration of closure	Not recorded	Not applicable	Not recorded	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	

Date of closure	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Total of closures Jan-Dec
Reason for closure TWH	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Lack of beds	1
Reason for closure MBC	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Lack of beds	1
Reason for closure CBC	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Lack of beds	1
Duration of closure	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	<6 hours	

Date of closure	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	Apr-21	May-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Total of closures Jan-Aug
Reason for closure TWH	Lack of beds / staff	Zero	Zero	Lack of beds / staff	Lack of beds / staff	Open	Lack of staff	Lack of staff	Lack of staff	Lack of staff	Lack of staff	Zero	8
Reason for closure MBC	Lack of beds / staff	Zero	Zero	Lack of beds / staff	Lack of beds / staff	Possible gas leak	Lack of staff	Lack of staff	Open	Open	Open	Zero	6
Reason for closure CBC	See above	Zero	Zero	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	Zero	0
Duration of closure	Not recorded	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not recorded	7 hours	12 hours	22 hours	9 hours	21 hours	8 hours	9 hours	Not applicable	

XX Labour and birth services at CBC have been temporarily suspended since January 2021 due to staff shortages.