

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7109

**Please reply to:**  
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24 December 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:*

### *Question 1*

*1a) Have any of your midwife-led units been temporarily suspended or unavailable to people at any point during the last 6 months? (1st June 2021 - 1st December 2021)*

*1b) If so, how many times was each one temporarily suspended or unavailable? If you have more than one maternity service, please specify the numbers per service.*

*1c) What were the reasons for each suspension or closure? If you have more than one maternity service, please specify the reasons for each.*

*i) Insufficient staffing numbers*

*ii) Bed shortages*

*iii) Both bed and staffing shortages*

*iv) Other, please specify*

### *Question 2*

*2a) Have people been "diverted" from your maternity services (obstetric unit/midwife-led unit/birth centre) to another hospital at any point during the last 6 months (1st June 2021 - 1st December 2021) including for any period lasting less than 4 hours?*

*2b) If so, how many times were people diverted? If you have more than one maternity service, please specify the numbers per service.*

*2c) What were the reasons for the diversions? If you have more than one maternity service, please specify the numbers per service.*

*i) Insufficient staffing numbers*

*ii) Bed shortages*

*iii) Both bed and staffing shortages*

*iv) Other, please specify*

*Question 3*

*3a) How many midwives do you employ?*

*3b) How many of your midwives are currently signed off on long-term sick leave?*

*3c) How many midwives on are on long-term sick leave due to anxiety/stress/depression/other psychiatric illnesses*

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 table:

1 & 2.

Date of closure	Jun-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total of closures June-Nov 21
Reason for closure TWH	Lack of staff	Lack of staff	Lack of staff	Lack of staff	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	4
Reason for closure MBC	Lack of staff	Open	Open	Open	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	1
Reason for closure CBC	See above	See above	See above	See above	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	0
Duration of closure	9 hours	21 hours	8 hours	9 hours	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	

3.

a. 279

b. 6

c. 2