

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7120

**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 unit closures 2021.

*You asked:*

*1) The number of maternity units within your trust which have had to turn away at least one woman in labour due to a lack of beds in 2021.*

*2) The number of women in labour turned away or directed to another site throughout your trust due to a lack of beds in 2021.*

Trust response:

1. & 2.

Please note - The response is for the Trust 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	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	1st April 2021	23rd April 2021	6th May 2021	29th May 2021	19th June 2021	30th June 2021	24th July 2021	26th July 2021	6th August 2021	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total of closures
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	Lack of staff	Zero	Zero	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	Zero	Zero	Zero	6
Reason for closure CBC	See above	Zero	Zero	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	Zero	Zero	Zero	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 recorded	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Number of Women diverted	Not recorded	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not recorded	10	Not recorded	4	2	15	3	Not recorded	3	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	37 recorded

