



**Maidstone and
Tunbridge Wells**
NHS Trust

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 8300

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
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Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net
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03 July 2023

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 Nitrous Oxide.

You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.

- 1. Since 2018 until now, how many complaints have you had about potential excessive exposure to Nitrous Oxide via Entonox and prolonged exposure of staff to high levels of nitrous oxide? Please provide these figures broken down year-by-year eg. 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 so far.*
- 2. Have you ever suspended the use of Entonox or any other inhaled as an inhalation analgesic for women in labour in either hospital setting or at home births? If so, please state how many times per year its use has been suspended since the first suspension was recorded.*
- 3. On average, how long has the use of Entonox been suspended for?*
- 4. Have you currently suspended or removed Entonox as an inhalation analgesic for women in Labour in either hospital setting or at home births, or are you planning to in the future?*
- 5. Do you have ventilation/scavenger units to remove Entonox in your maternity unit? If yes, how old are the ventilation/scavenger systems on the maternity wards and when they last updated/repared?*
- 6. On average, how much exposure do maternity staff have to Entonox in a week and how often do you monitor the levels?*
- 7. Have you had any staff who have been exposed to Entonox in excess of the Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL) of 100ppm (eight-hour time weighted average) under COSHH Regulations 2002, and what were the levels of exposure?*
- 8. Is there currently any legal action involving your staff in relation to this?*

Trust response:

1. There have been no complaints.
2. There has been no suspension of use of Entonox at MTW in any setting.

3. Not applicable

4. No

5. There are ventilation / scavenger systems in our maternity unit and birth centres. These have all been maintained / repaired within the last 6-12 months. The units / systems were installed in the main maternity site and Maidstone Birth Centre when they were built in 2010. Crowborough birth centre had a new unit

6. There are plans to implement a regular monitoring process. Recent ad hoc monitoring was conducted following concerns raised in a neighbouring unit.

7. High level (110ppm) for one member of staff was identified during recent ad hoc monitoring at Crowborough.

8. No