

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 8927

Please reply to:
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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 Home birth service closure.

*You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.
Could I please have details of dates the home birth service was suspended over the past week, reasons for doing so, risk assessments and notes pertaining to the closure?*

Trust response:

The homebirth service was suspended for two 24-hour periods in the week 19/02/2024 to 25/02/2024. This was due to the lack of available community midwifery staff and high antenatal clinic acuity at the hospital sites.

The days the homebirth service was suspended were:

21/02/2024 – Services were suspended at 10am until 10am on 22/02/2024.
25/02/2024 – Services were suspended around 14:00 until 10am on 26/02/2024.

In the week 19/02/2024 to 25/02/2024 the community midwives were required to provide additional staffing support to both birthing centres in order for them to remain open and provide provision overnight. This included the nights the homebirth service was suspended.

There were three homebirths in the week 19/02/2024 – 25/02/2024.

If you would prefer a member of the midwifery team to contact you by telephone to discuss the service provision, please let me know your preferred contact details and I will arrange this for you.