



FOI REF: 21/414

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1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

- 1. Please provide for each delivery suite/labour ward/birthing unit (or otherwise-named unit where babies are delivered) within your trust the number of times it has gone on divert - ie needed to send incoming patients to a different hospital to receive care due to insufficient staff numbers (please note this can be another hospital within the same trust). I would like this information per month from 1 January 2019 to 31 July 2021.**

There have been no closures of the obstetric unit in Hastings. Eastbourne Midwifery Led Unit (EMU) was closed to births from 4th January to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 due to South East Coast Ambulance Service withdrawal of support for out of Hospital births. The unit remained open for outpatient activity.

2. Please provide for each maternity unit in your trust (ie unit providing ante-natal and post-natal services) the number of times that unit has been recorded as having under-template or below safe ward staffing levels. I would like this information per month from 1 January 2019 to 31 July 2021.

Please see the table below for the number of shifts recorded as having below safe ward staffing levels for the period requested:

Month	Maternity Conquest Under Template		Eastbourne Midwifery Unit Under Template	
	Day	Night	Day	Night
January 2019	28 of 31	18 of 31	3 of 31	3 of 31
February 2019	28 of 28	25 of 28	2 of 28	9 of 28
March 2019	31 of 31	25 of 31	0 of 31	2 of 31
April 2019	29 of 30	27 of 30	4 of 30	4 of 30
May 2019	30 of 31	30 of 31	3 of 31	5 of 31
June 2019	29 of 30	28 of 30	2 of 30	7 of 30
July 2019	26 of 31	23 of 31	4 of 31	11 of 31
August 2019	31 of 31	24 of 31	5 of 31	12 of 31
September 2019	28 of 30	17 of 30	9 of 30	11 of 30
October 2019	30 of 31	16 of 31	5 of 31	6 of 31
November 2019	29 of 30	21 of 30	3 of 30	10 of 30
December 2019	31 of 31	16 of 31	7 of 31	6 of 31
January 2020	28 of 31	18 of 31	1 of 31	1 of 31
February 2020	26 of 29	8 of 29	0 of 29	5 of 29
March 2020	23 of 31	23 of 31	0 of 31	8 of 31
April 2020	18 of 30	30 of 30	5 of 30	18 of 30
May 2020	22 of 31	29 of 31	4 of 31	10 of 31
June 2020	28 of 30	28 of 30	2 of 30	13 of 30
July 2020	30 of 31	27 of 31	0 of 31	7 of 31
August 2020	23 of 31	26 of 31	2 of 31	9 of 31
September 2020	23 of 30	26 of 30	5 of 30	7 of 30
October 2020	25 of 31	26 of 31	4 of 31	7 of 31
November 2020	24 of 30	20 of 30	2 of 30	0 of 30
December 2020	25 of 31	28 of 31	4 of 31	6 of 31
January 2021	22 of 31	24 of 31	1 of 31	23 of 31
February 2021	18 of 28	15 of 28	2 of 28	14 of 28
March 2021	20 of 31	19 of 31	4 of 31	3 of 31
April 2021	15 of 30	16 of 30	3 of 30	1 of 30
May 2021	16 of 31	17 of 31	4 of 31	10 of 31
June 2021	25 of 30	23 of 30	2 of 30	3 of 30
July 2021	24 of 31	29 of 31	5 of 31	3 of 31

Please note the number of shifts in each month will vary due to the number of days available. For example, February will have 28 day shifts and 28 night shifts because there are 28 days in that particular month

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to the Freedom of Information Department ([esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference.

Yours faithfully

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)  
Corporate Governance Manager  
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