

FOI REF: 21/642

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

20th December 2021

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

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:

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)

Our midwife led unit in Eastbourne was suspended from 7th August 2021 – 20th September 2021.

The service was suspended from 16.00hrs – 07.00hrs on Saturday 27th November 2021.

The service was suspended from 16.00hrs – 07.00hrs on Sunday 28th November 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.

See above.

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

Insufficient staffing numbers.

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?

No.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

Question 3

3a) How many midwives do you employ?

Full Time - 51 Part Time – 125

At end Nov 2021, 135.58wte (Band 5-8b) are employed by Trust.

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

Full Time - 6 Part Time – 7

Long term sickness > 28 days (1st November to 9th December 12/21) = 9.62 wte.

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

Full Time - 2 Part Time - 3

Long term sickness > 28 days (1st November to 9th December 12/21) = 2.70 wte.

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), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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