

FOI REF: 23/880

19th January 2024

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:

- 1. On how many occasions was the Eastbourne Midwifery Unit closed or suspended for births in 2023?**

37 suspensions lasting 87 days.

- 2. On which dates in 2023 was the Eastbourne Midwifery Unit closed or suspended for births?**

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 5 th February 2023 | 17:00hrs |
| 7 th February 2023 | 14:00 |
| 19 th February 2023 | 19:00 |
| 21 st February 2023 | 14:00 |
| 10 th March 2023 | 15:00 |
| 11 th March 2023 | 07:30 |
| 14 th March 2023 | 19:00 |
| 15 th March 2023 | 19:30 |
| 5 th April 2023 | 17:00 |
| 6 th April 2023 | 07.30 |
| 8 th April 2023 | 17.00 |
| 9 th April 2023 | 07.30 |
| 17 th July 2023 | 17.00 |
| 18 th July 2023 | 07.30 |
| 20 th July 2023 | 17.00 |
| 21 st July 2023 | 07.30 |
| 5 th August 2023 | 23.30 |
| 6 th August 2023 | 07.30 |
| 15 th August 2023 | 17.00 |
| 16 th August 2023 | 07.30 |

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|---------------------------------|------------|
| 26 th August 2023 | 17.00 |
| 27 th August 2023 | 07.30 |
| 29 th August 2023 | 10.00 |
| 29 th August 2023 | 19.15 |
| 1 st September 2023 | 17:00 |
| 4 th September 2023 | 07.30 |
| 9 th September 2023 | 17.00 |
| 11 th September 2023 | 07.30 |
| 11 th September 2023 | 17.00 |
| 12 th September 2023 | 07.30 |
| 13 th September 2023 | 09.30 |
| 17 th September 2023 | 07.30 |
| 18 th September 2023 | 17.00 |
| 19 th September 2023 | 07.30 |
| 23 rd September 2023 | 13.00 |
| 26 th September 2023 | 07.30 |
| 27 th September 2023 | 09.30 |
| 28 th September 2023 | 07.30 |
| 28 th September 2023 | 09.30 |
| 1 st October 2023 | 07.30 |
| 1 st October 2023 | 17.00 |
| 3 rd October 2023 | 07.30 |
| 8 th October 2023 | 17.00 |
| 12 th October 2023 | 07.30 |
| 14 th October 2023 | 07.30 |
| 15 th October 2023 | 07.30 |
| 19 th October 2023 | 09.30 |
| 20 th October 2023 | 07.30 |
| 21 st October 2023 | 07.30 |
| 22 nd October 2023 | 07.30 |
| 26 th October 2023 | 17.00 |
| 27 th October 2023 | 07.30 |
| 28 th October 2023 | 07.30 |
| 29 th October 2023 | 07.30 |
| 1 st November 2023 | Over night |
| 9 th November 2023 | 09.00 |
| 9 th November 2023 | 19.15 |
| 7 th November 2023 | 07.30 |
| 7 th November 2023 | 19.15 |
| 11 th November 2023 | 14.00 |
| 12 th November 2023 | 07.15 |
| 15 th November 2023 | 09.30 |
| 16 th November 2023 | 07.15 |
| 3 rd December 2023 | 14.00 |
| 4 th December 2023 | 07.15 |
| 7 th December 2023 | 09.30 |
| 8 th December 2023 | 07.15 |
| 14 th December 2023 | 09.30 |
| 16 th December 2023 | 07.30 |
| 18 th December 2023 | 08.00 |

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3. What is the total number of hours for which the Eastbourne Midwifery Unit was closed or suspended for births in 2023?

1697 hours.

4. How many planned inductions at the Eastbourne Midwifery Unit were delayed due to the EMU being closed or suspended for births in 2023?

None, IOL is not undertaken at EMU.

5. How many planned inductions at the Eastbourne Midwifery Unit were relocated to Conquest Hospital due to the EMU being closed or suspended for births in 2023?

None, IOL is not undertaken at EMU.

6. How many times was the DGH's home birth service suspended in 2023?

23.

7. On which dates in 2023 was the DGH's home birth service suspended?

28th February 2023
14th March 2023
18th March 2023
8th April 2023
17th June 2023
20th July 2023
21st July 2023
23rd July 2023
1st August 2023
5th August 2023
9th August 2023
26th August 2023
31st August 2023
4th September 2023
6th August 2023
9th August 2023
23rd September 2023
20th October 2023
26th October 2023
30th October 2023
1st November 2023
10th December 2023
13th December 2023

8. What is the total number of hours for which was the DGH's home birth service was suspended in 2023?

Usually overnight so $23 \times 12 = 276$ hours, these times may not be exact as not always logged if something happened part way through the night.

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9. What was average the FTE of midwife capacity on the Eastbourne Midwifery Unit during 2023?

Clarification was sought with regard to clarifying if this means how many staff available or those employed? and confirmation was received that you require us to discount this question so that we can proceed with the remaining ones as soon as we can.

10. What is the minimum midwife FTE required to run the Eastbourne Midwifery Unit safely?

Budgeted establishment is 8.15 wte (FTE).

11. What was the total number of days of staff absence, sickness or (non-annual) leave for midwives in the Eastbourne Midwifery Unit in 2023?

630.

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, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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