

FOI REF: 24/759

14<sup>th</sup> November 2024**Eastbourne District General Hospital**Kings Drive  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://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. **Does your Trust operate a home birth service for women and birthing people (regardless of whether such services are offered through a dedicated team or integrated into wider maternity services)?**

Yes.

2. **If so, are home birth services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week across the whole geographic area overseen by the Trust?**

Yes.

3. **Has your Trust been able to provide home birth services to women and birthing people 24 hours a day, seven days a week without any suspensions or restrictions to that ability in the last 12 months? Please note in using the terms suspensions or restrictions we include (but are not limited to) restrictions to the days/times when home births can be attended by midwives or not being able to offer a home birth service at all for a period of time. We do not include unforeseen staff shortages on a particular shift here.**

Yes.

4. **Please include the terms and reason(s) for any suspensions or restrictions in the last 12 months.**

Not applicable.

5. **Has your Trust been unable to send midwives to attend a home birth due to unforeseen circumstances (such as staff shortages or sickness) on a particular shift in the last 12 months? Please include how many times this has occurred in the last 12 months.**

Yes, 3 times this has occurred in the last 12 months.

- 6. How many home births have been attended by midwives in your Trust in the last 12 months, including those resulting in intrapartum and/or postnatal transfer into hospital and those resulting in a baby being born at home with no transfer-in?**

61.

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](mailto: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

Freedom of Information Department  
[esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)