



East Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

FOI REF: 26/017

9th January 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

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:

I am writing to seek information in regards to when fathers were allowed to watch births in the delivery room at the Eastbourne District General Hospital in Kings Drive.

My child was born there in September 1976, I had intended to watch the birth but was unable to.

I've been informed watching births in the delivery room in 1976 was not allowed, I don't agree with this, I believe the policy was brought in around 1973, to allow fathers into the delivery room to watch their children being born, am I correct?

I would appreciate your help in this matter as to the correct date when it was allowed.

We do not hold this information as there are no policies for maternity, that are archived and retrievable, prior to 2003. There are also no staff practising within the Trust from that time period as they have all now retired.

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.

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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