

FOI Ref: 26/151

20th March 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital
Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

Further to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I now set out our answers to your specific questions, and any clarifications sought and provided, as follows:

Can you please provide the following information:

- 1) The number of FTE absence days caused by sickness recorded by obstetricians at your trust for each calendar year back to 2016.**

[Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-151 Maternity Care'.](#)

- 2) The number of FTE absence days caused by sickness recorded by midwives at your trust, for each calendar year back to 2016.**

[Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-151 Maternity Care'.](#)

- 3) The number of births recorded for each year back to 2016, organised by method of onset of labour and by duration of antenatal stay in days.**

[Please see the attached document for the number of births, broken down by onset of labour, for the period 2021 onwards and note the following:](#)

- [Due to a change in East Sussex Healthcare NHS's Trust \(ESHT\) maternity system, we do not hold this information prior to November 2021.](#)
- [ESHT does not centrally record the duration of antenatal stays. To enable the Trust to provide this information it would require a manual review of each patient record which we estimate would take in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12\(1\) to this part of your request.](#)

[Section 12\(1\) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection \(Appropriate Limit and Fees\) Regulations 2004 \(the Regulations\). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless](#)

of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

4) The number of FTE bereavement midwives employed by your trust, for each calendar year back to 2016.

Please note that we do not hold this information for the period requested. However, we can confirm that we currently have 1.61 FTE Bereavement Specialist Midwives.

I trust this information is helpful in its detail or explanation however, if you are dissatisfied with the response, then you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to seek an internal review, please write to the Freedom of Information Team at esh-tr.foi@nhs.net quoting the above FOI reference number, within 40 working days. Please note the Trust is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review after this time period.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
0300 131 4716
Core Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm

Year	Q1. Obstetrician absences	Q2. Midwife absences	Q4. Bereavement midwives employed
2025	504.2	3246.7	Please refer to letter
2024	340.2	3272.7	
2023	253.1	2943.7	
2022	319.6	2981.2	
2021	205.4	3244.8	
2020	185.1	2593.9	
2019	220.0	1435.0	
2018	239.0	2085.6	
2017	214.6	2797.5	
2016	234.7	2323.9	

Q3. Length of antenatal stay (days)

Year	Method of onset	Total deliveries	Unknown	Same day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 or more
2025	Total	2831			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2025	Spontaneous	1172			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2025	Caesarean	877			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2025	Inductions	782			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2025	Unknown	0			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						

Year	Method of onset	Total deliveries	Unknown	Same day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 or more
2024	Total	2737			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2024	Spontaneous	1262			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2024	Caesarean	782			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2024	Inductions	693			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2024	Unknown	0			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						

Year	Method of onset	Total deliveries	Unknown	Same day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 or more
2023	Total	2764			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2023	Spontaneous	1218			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2023	Caesarean	786			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2023	Inductions	759			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2023	Unknown	1			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						

Year	Method of onset	Total deliveries	Unknown	Same day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 or more
2022	Total	2936			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2022	Spontaneous	1370			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2022	Caesarean	746			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2022	Inductions	820			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2022	Unknown	0			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						

Year	Method of onset	Total deliveries	Unknown	Same day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 or more
2021	Total	283			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2021	Spontaneous	131			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2021	Caesarean	65			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2021	Inductions	87			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						
2021	Unknown	0			Section 12(1) applied, please refer to letter.						