

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026

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)

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:

**Please provide the following information for maternity services at your Trust for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. If full-year 2025 data is not yet available, please provide the latest available 2025 year-to-date data and state the period covered.**

**1. Number of maternity red flag events**

**Please provide the total number of maternity red flag events recorded during the period, broken down by:**

- **Ward or unit name**
- **Category or type of red flag event, using the categories recorded by the Trust**

[Please see attached document - 'ESHT Birth Rate Plus Data Jan 2025'](#), for the red flag events and note that we do not hold this information broken down by Ward or Unit name.

**For clarity, I am referring to red flag events as described in NICE safe midwifery staffing guidance, including events recorded as part of maternity staffing exception reporting.**

**2. Categories / definitions used**

**Please provide the list of red flag event categories used by the Trust during the period, including any definitions or descriptions used internally for recording or reporting purposes.**

[Please see attached document - 'ESHT Birth Rate Plus Data Jan 2025'](#).

### 3. Escalation

Please also provide the following for the same time period if available:

- **The dates of any periods when any maternity unit within your Trust closed due to staffing pressures. Please include the start and end date/time.**

Please see the table below for Eastbourne Midwifery Unit (EMU) closures for the period requested:

| Suspension Period                     | Duration  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 5 Dec 2025 07:00 - 6 Dec 2025 07:00   | 24 hrs    |
| 15 Dec 2025 20:00 - 16 Dec 2025 07:15 | Overnight |
| 19 Dec 2025 22:00 - 21 Dec 2025 07:15 | 33 hrs    |
| 22 Dec 2025 14:00 - 23 Dec 2025 07:15 | 17 hrs    |
| 23 Dec 2025 18:30 - 24 Dec 2025 02:45 | 8 hrs     |
| 20 Dec 2025 19:00 - 21 Dec 2025 08:00 | 13 hrs    |
| 24 Dec 2025 14:00 - 24 Dec 2025 19:15 | 5 hrs     |

- **The dates of any periods when any maternity unit within your Trust was operating under escalation due to staffing or capacity pressures. Please include the relevant escalation level and start and end date/time.**

Please see the attached document, 'ESHT Birth Rate Plus Data Jan 2025'. Please note that escalation data is only recorded when a red flag has been identified. Unfortunately, the data provided does not include specific dates, times, or durations.

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](mailto: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

## ESHT Birth Rate Plus Data Jan 2025 – Dec 2025

### Number of Red Flags recorded

01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

[Download Results](#)

| Red Flags                                                                                | Breakdown of Red Flags                                                                                                         | Times occurred | Percentage |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
|  RF1    | Delayed or cancelled time critical activity                                                                                    | 59             | 17%        |
|  RF2    | Missed or delayed care (for example, delay of 60 minutes or more in washing and suturing)                                      | 1              | 0%         |
|  RF3    | Missed medication during an admission to hospital or midwifery-led unit (for example, diabetes medication)                     | 0              | 0%         |
|  RF4    | Delay in providing pain relief                                                                                                 | 0              | 0%         |
|  RF5    | Delay between presentation and triage                                                                                          | 5              | 1%         |
|  RF6    | Full clinical examination not carried out when presenting in labour                                                            | 6              | 2%         |
|  RF7    | Delay between admission for induction and beginning of process                                                                 | 231            | 67%        |
|  RF8    | Delayed recognition of and action on abnormal vital signs (for example, sepsis or urine output)                                | 1              | 0%         |
|  RF9  | Any occasion when 1 midwife is not able to provide continuous one-to-one care and support to a woman during established labour | 3              | 1%         |
|  RF10 | Coordinator unable to maintain supernumerary status- providing 1:1 care in labour                                              | 2              | 1%         |
|  RF11 | Coordinator unable to maintain supernumerary status- Not providing 1:1 care                                                    | 38             | 11%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                             |                                                                                                                                | <b>346</b>     |            |

\*The % is rounded to nearest whole number

### Number of Staffing Factors

01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

[Download Results](#)

| Factors                                                                                 | Breakdown of Factors                    | Times occurred | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
|  SF1 | Unexpected Midwife absence / sickness   | 301            | 22%        |
|  SF2 | Unable to fill vacant shifts            | 753            | 54%        |
|  SF3 | Midwife on transfer duties              | 15             | 1%         |
|  SF4 | Midwife redeployed to other area        | 7              | 1%         |
|  SF5 | Support staff less than rostered number | 216            | 15%        |
|  SF6 | Continuity of care Midwife unavailable  | 43             | 3%         |
|  SF7 | Continuity of care Midwife available    | 64             | 5%         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                            |                                         | <b>1399</b>    |            |

\*The % is rounded to nearest whole number

## Number of Clinical Actions

01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

[Download Results](#)

| Actions      | Breakdown of Actions                            | Times occurred | Percentage |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| CA1          | Decline in-utero transfer                       | 1              | 0%         |
| CA2          | Delay in accepting transfers                    | 24             | 8%         |
| CA3          | Delay in commencing IOL (as per Trust guidance) | 243            | 78%        |
| CA4          | Delay/ Cancel planned procedure                 | 34             | 11%        |
| CA5          | Delay in transfer of cases to theatre           | 4              | 1%         |
| CA6          | Delay in EI LSCS > 24hrs                        | 6              | 2%         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                                                 | <b>312</b>     |            |

\*The % is rounded to nearest whole number

## Number of Management Actions

01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

[Download Results](#)

| Actions      | Breakdown of Actions                  | Times occurred | Percentage |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| MA1          | Redeploy staff internally             | 99             | 16%        |
| MA2          | Redeploy staff from community         | 17             | 3%         |
| MA3          | Redeploy staff from training          | 4              | 1%         |
| MA4          | Staff unable to take allocated breaks | 73             | 12%        |
| MA5          | Staff working beyond rostered hours   | 16             | 3%         |
| MA6          | Specialist Midwife working clinically | 92             | 15%        |
| MA7          | Manager / Matron working clinically   | 9              | 1%         |
| MA8          | Staff sourced from bank / agency      | 1              | 0%         |
| MA9          | Utilise on call Midwife               | 174            | 28%        |
| MA10         | Escalate to Manager on call           | 128            | 21%        |
| MA11         | Maternity unit on divert              | 1              | 0%         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                                       | <b>614</b>     |            |

\*The % is rounded to nearest whole number