FOI REF: 26/754

17th November 2026

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

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:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding incidents, injuries, and adverse outcomes associated with home births within your Trust.

Please provide the following information for the past 5 financial years, or for as many years as your records allow:

1. Number of Home Births

For each financial year please state:

a. The total number of home births attended by Trust-employed midwives (including agency staff).

b. Please also supply the total number of hospital births for comparison.

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-754 Home Births Response'.

2. Adverse Incidents at Home Births

a. For each financial year, please provide the total number of incident reports logged in relation to home births attended by the Trust (including agency staff). If possible broken down by severity:

* **No harm**
* **Low harm**
* **Severe harm**
* **Maternal death**
* **Neonatal death**

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-754 Home Births Response'.

b. For the same period, please provide the number of incident report logs in relation to hospital births at the Trust. If possible broken down by severity.

* **No harm**
* **Low harm**
* **Severe harm**
* **Maternal death**
* **Neonatal death**

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-754 Home Births Response'.

3. Safeguarding or Escalation Concerns

Please state:

a. The number of safeguarding concerns raised in connection with a home birth during each period.

b. Any Serious Incidents (SIs) or HSIB referrals relating specifically to home births during each period.

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-754 Home Births Response'.

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

FOI 26/754 - East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

Home Births

Question			2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	Total
1a	Number of Home Births		*32	55	59	70	47	231
1b	Number of Hospital Births		*1012	2771	2769	2577	2869	10986
2a	Number of Incident Reports for Home Births	Severity 1 None/Near Miss	21	21	27	30	24	123
		Severity 2 Minor	0	1	0	5	5	11
		Severity 3 Moderate	0	1	0	0	0	1
		Total	21	23	27	35	29	135
2b	Number of Incident Reports for Hospital Births	Severity 1 None/Near Miss	324	367	352	266	324	1633
		Severity 2 Minor	28	29	35	101	172	365
		Severity 3 Moderate	7	3	8	9	7	34
		Severity 4 Major	2	5	0	1	1	9
		Severity 5 Catastrophic	2	1	0	0	4	7
		Total	363	405	395	377	508	2048
3a	Number of Safeguarding Concerns		0	0	0	0	0	0
3b	Number of Serious Incidents or HSIB Referrals		0	0	0	0	0	0