

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: [EPUT.FOI.24.3785](#)

Date Received: 12/11/2024

Information Requested:

Freedom of Information – Suspensions of Home Birth Services

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Please provide the following information to help us understand the scale of restrictions to the rights of women and birthing people to choose their place of birth across the UK, as we campaign for improvements in maternity care for all women and birthing people.

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

Please note that Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is a provider of mental health and community services. As such, we do not provide Maternity Services which are provided through acute hospital services. We therefore do not hold the information you have requested.

Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link
<https://eput.nhs.uk>