

Date: 24/11/2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/013744

For each of your hospitals which has a maternity unit, please detail separately for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 (to date):

1) On how many occasions did the maternity unit temporarily close (defined as a period during which women in labour would not have been admitted to the unit)?

2013 = 6, 2014 = 9, 2015 = 14, 2016 = 29, 2017 = 14 to date

2) On each occasion, how many hours was the maternity unit closed for?

2013 approx. 64 hours

2014 approx. 78 hours

2015 = approx. 201 hrs

2016 = approx. 530.9 hrs

2017 = approx. 241.7 hrs to date

3) On each occasion, was the closure down to:

a. A shortage of suitable midwives

b. A shortage of suitable consultants

c. A shortage of suitable staff of other description

d. A shortage of available beds

e. Another reason (please give a brief description)

The shortage were due to a mixture of suitable midwives and available beds

4) On each occasion, how many women in labour were turned away while the unit was closed?

If The Trust is at capacity for beds or staff we would contact other units . If they are able to accept our ladies we would redirect when they phoned us in labour. The figures below are for the number of women who have been redirected.

2013 = 0

2014 = 5

2015 = 15

2016 = 6

2017 = 0 to end of March

5) On occasions when the maternity unit was closed, where were women in labour generally advised to go for care, and where is the furthest recorded.

When The Trust is at level 3 (see response to question 4) The Trust would make contact with Black Country Trusts, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell/City, Birmingham Women's Hospital and Worcester

The Trust has no record of any women going to Worcester and all the other hospital are around 10 miles away