



Freedom of Information Team
Post Room
Queen Alexandra Hospital
Southwick Hill Road
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO6 3LY

Date: 19/10/2021

Ref: 21-22 244

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 04/08/2021. Please see responses to your requests below.

- 1) Please provide for each delivery suite/labour ward/birthing unit (or otherwise-named unit where babies are delivered) within your trust the number of times it has gone on divert - ie needed to send incoming patients to a different hospital to receive care due to insufficient staff numbers (please note this can be another hospital within the same trust). I would like this information per month from 1 January 2019 to 31 July 2021.**

The maternity services for Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust have closed on the following occasions due to staffing levels:

2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
No of Diverts	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Patients diverted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The Maternity Department did not have any closures or diverts in 2019 or 2020.

This has been answered applying the interpretation of the word “divert” as closure of the unit. This refers to the number of occasions when the Maternity unit at QA has been closed and the mothers may potentially be re-directed to another hospital. However, mothers who arrive at the unit without prior arrangements will be accommodated.

- 2) Please provide for each maternity unit in your trust (ie unit providing ante-natal and post-natal services) the number of times that unit has been recorded as having under-template or below safe ward staffing levels. I would like this information per month from 1 January 2019 to 31 July 2021.**

For the time period stated above, there were 2,561 shifts were identified as under template levels. This is due to a combination of vacancy, high maternity leave rates (with shielding in late pregnancy too) and sickness.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information, please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team