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7th September 2026

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: Maternity
red flag events

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay.

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FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
January 2025 to 31 December 2025 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 ☐ 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.	Please see below attached document downloaded from Birthrate Plus Acuity App that shows all red flags documented between Jan 1st 2025 - Dec 31st 2025 for the two areas we capture this Data: Sherwood Birthing Unit (SBU) and the Maternity Ward. Sherwood birthing unit			
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.				

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Number of Red Flags recorded

01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Red Flags	Breakdown of Red Flags	Times occurred	Percentage
 RF1	Delayed or cancelled time critical activity	11	1%
 RF2	Missed or delayed care (for example, delay of 60 minutes or more in washing and suturing)	3	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	4	0%
 RF5	Delay between presentation and triage	5	1%
 RF6	Full clinical examination not carried out when presenting in labour	1	0%
 RF7	Delay between admission for induction and beginning of process	30	3%
 RF8	Delayed recognition of and action on abnormal vital signs (for example, sepsis or urine output)	0	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	2	0%
 RF10	Coordinator unable to maintain supernumerary status	32	3%
 RF11	Delay ARM > 3 hours	834	90%
TOTAL		922	

*The % is rounded to nearest whole number

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Maternity Ward

Number of Red Flags recorded
01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Red Flags	Breakdown of Red Flags	Times occurred	Percentage
RF1	Delayed or cancelled time critical activity	5	12%
RF2	Missed or delayed care (for example, delay of 60 minutes or more in washing and suturing)	1	2%
RF3	Missed medication during an admission to hospital or midwifery-led unit (for example, diabetes medication)	0	0%
RF4	Delay in providing pain relief	6	15%
RF5	Delay between presentation and triage	0	0%
RF6	Full clinical examination not carried out when presenting in labour	1	2%
RF7	Delay between admission for induction and beginning of process	25	61%
RF8	Delayed recognition of and action on abnormal vital signs (for example, sepsis or urine output)	0	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	7%
TOTAL		41	

*The % is rounded to nearest whole number

3. Escalation –The dates of any periods when any maternity unit within your Trust closed due to staffing pressures.

During Jan 1st 2025 - Dec 31st 2025 the Sherwood Birthing Unit diverted it's services in line with Trust escalation Policies 24 times.

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• Please include the start and end date/time. • 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 table below showing the 24 occurrences including the date and timeframe of closing and reopening. There is a generic reason provided for the reason for diversion with the main reasons being acuity within the service or capacity. It is rare that staffing is specifically noted as an issue as additional staff are regularly provided in line with escalation policies and this still does not change the need to divert for high acuity. We do not capture data that evidences when the Unit is operating under Opel 3 escalation only when we reach Opel 4 and enact a diversion. This data would be captured by the Sit rep completed within the Trust and sent to NHS England throughout the day. <table><tr><th></th><th colspan="3">Jan 2025- Dec 2025</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>28/05/25</td><td>21.10 – 02.45 3 hrs 35 mins</td><td>Acuity</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>30/05/25</td><td>16.57 – 00.25 7 hrs 28 mins</td><td>Acuity/ Workload backlog of ARM's/ PROM's</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>07/06/25</td><td>07.05 – 09.45 2 hrs 40 mins</td><td>Capacity</td></tr></table>		Jan 2025- Dec 2025			1	28/05/25	21.10 – 02.45 3 hrs 35 mins	Acuity	2	30/05/25	16.57 – 00.25 7 hrs 28 mins	Acuity/ Workload backlog of ARM's/ PROM's	3	07/06/25	07.05 – 09.45 2 hrs 40 mins	Capacity			
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	4	24/06/25	21.09 – 04.00 6hrs 51 mins	Acuity			
	5	28/06/25	10.30 – 13.34 3hrs 4 mins	Acuity			
	6	02/07/25	23.15-02.00 2 hrs 45 mins	Acuity			
	7	19/07/25	10.04 – 15.37 5hrs 41 mins	Acuity			
	8	25/07/25	10.00 -13.00	Acuity			
	9	10/08/25	01.27 – 06.00 4 hrs 33 mins	Acuity			
	10	13/08/25	13.30 – 17.07 4 hrs 37 mins	Capacity / Acuity			
	11	14/08/25	08.34 – 10.30 1 hour 56 mins	Acuity			
	12	18/08/25 – 19/08/25	18.55 – 05.50 10 hrs 55 mins	Acuity			
	13	24/08/25	06.33 – 13.30 (7 hrs 3 mins)	No medical cover.			

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	14	10/09/25 – 11/09/25	18.00 – 09.50 (15 hrs, 50 mins)	Acuity			
	15	15/09/25 – 16/09/25	22.42 – 09.08 (10hrs 23 mins)	Acuity / Capacity			
	16	17/09/25 – 18/09/25	18.30 – 07.30am (13 hrs)	Acuity			
	17	19/09/25	06.35 – 11.50 (5 hrs 15 mins)	Acuity			
	18	29/09/25 – 30/09/25	12.18 – 03.19 (15 hrs, 1 min)	Acuity			
	19	07/10/25	20.20 - ?09:00	Capacity/ Acuity			
	20	25/10/25	17.41 – 00.37 (6hrs 56 mins)	Acuity			
	21	04/11/25	20.52 – 02.21 (7 hrs 39 mins)	Capacity			
	22	05/12/25	05.19 – 08.52 (2 hrs 27 mins)	Staff last minute sickness impacting safety / acuity			

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	23	11/12/25	19.37 – 00.00	Staff last minute sickness impacting safety / acuity			
	24	14/12/25	22.15 – 07.30 (9hrs 15 mins)	Acuity			

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I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.