

24 March 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request regarding Maternity Unit closures.

The Trust can provide the following information:

For each of the last three calendar years (2014, 2013, 2012) please provide details of each time your hospitals' maternity units have temporarily closed their doors. Please treat each hospital separately.

For each such closure, your reply should include:

- The date
- The length of the closure
- The reason for the closure
- How many patients were diverted to other maternity wards
- If any critical instances occurred

Please see attached

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at foi@homerton.nhs.uk, in the first instance. If, following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

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Information Governance Administrator

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Information Governance Manager/Deputy Calidcott Guardian
Incorporating hospital and community health services, teaching and research

Maternity Unit Closure, Homerton Hospital

Date	Length of the closure	Reason for the closure	Number of patients diverted to other maternity wards	Occurrence of critical instances.
13.08.2012	19 hours	<p>Lack of postnatal beds due to acuity levels on the postnatal ward. The caseload of women that were on the wards and delivery suite at the time of the closure were women who had complications or had babies requiring additional care which required a longer length of stay thus reducing the capacity in all areas. It is felt that little could be done to avoid this situation.</p> <p>It should be noted that this was the first week of the Olympic games but it is felt that this did not contribute to the reduction in capacity in the maternity unit.</p> <p>It was felt that all actions that were able to be undertaken were done.</p>	<p>One client was sent to UCLH but as she was not in labour she went home – she was able to subsequently deliver at Homerton University hospital</p>	0

Maternity Unit Closure, Homerton Hospital

<p>23.30, 04.06.2013- 19.30, 06.06. 2013</p>	<p>44 hours</p>	<p>Lack of delivery suite beds due to acuity levels and volume of patients on the delivery suite. The maternity service is not able to predict when women will go into labour, the maternity service has an increasingly complexity maternity population which impacts on resources including beds and staffing maternity care. On rare occasions to ensure patient safety the maternity unit may need to close to further admissions. It was felt that all actions that were able to be undertaken were carried out in this case. It should be emphasised that suspension of the maternity unit is taken very seriously and is only ever undertaken to maintain appropriate levels of patient safety.</p>	<p>3 women asked to attend an alternative hospital. 2 of these women refused.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>22.05.2013</p>	<p>13 hours</p>	<p>Lack of postnatal beds due to acuity levels on the postnatal ward. It was felt that all actions that were able to be undertaken were done.</p>	<p>One woman was sent to Royal Free but not delivered.</p>	<p>0</p>