



# Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters  
Chief Nurse

Royal Albert Edward Infirmary  
Wigan Lane  
Wigan  
WN1 2NN

T: 01942 773291

E: [kevin.parker-evans@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:kevin.parker-evans@wwl.nhs.uk)

Ref: FOI/2024/10240

Date Received: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Response Due: 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 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.

In your request you asked:

**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)?**

Yes, this is integrated into the wider maternity service.

**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?**

Yes, Home Birth services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week across the entire geographical area.

**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.**

No, there has been one period of suspension to the service.

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

Home Birth service was suspended on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024. This was due to possible riots occurring within the Wigan area and was agreed to support the safety of our staff.

**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.**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 there were 4 suspensions of the homebirth service from 6pm – 8am on four different occasions. These were 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.

**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?**

26.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



KEVIN PARKER-EVANS

Kevin Parker-Evans MBA, FCMJ, CMgr. RN Dip HE

Chief Nursing Officer & Director of Infection Prevention and Control

**PLEASE NOTE:**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111