

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 14 November 2025

Ref: 31094

Requested Information:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Health Service Journal (HSJ). I am submitting a request for information held by the trust under the Freedom of Information Act.

This a Freedom of information request regarding your trust

1. On how many days between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2025 was your home birth service suspended or restricted (ie would not have attended a woman in labour at home if requested to do so)?
2. How many women were unable to access the home birth service on these days? (ie were booked for a home birth and were then told they had to give birth in a hospital or birthing unit or contacted you during labour, asking for a home birth even if this had not been booked in advance)
3. If you have a standalone midwifery unit (ie one which is not on the same site as an obstetrician-led service so not co-located), on how many days between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2025 was this suspended or restricted (ie women would not have been admitted if they went into labour – even if no women needed the service on these days)?
4. How many women in labour were unable to access the unit to give birth on these days?

If you have more than one standalone midwifery unit please answer these questions separately for each one.

By day we mean the 24 hours from midnight to midnight: we are asking about suspensions or restrictions at any point during the day even if they did not last for the whole 24 hours.

We are only asking about birth services – not antenatal or postnatal services.

Response

1. On how many days between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2025 was your home birth service suspended or restricted (ie would not have attended a woman in labour at home if requested to do so)? **None**
2. How many women were unable to access the home birth service on these days? (ie were booked for a home birth and were then told they had to give

birth in a hospital or birthing unit or contacted you during labour, asking for a home birth even if this had not been booked in advance) **N/A**

3. If you have a standalone midwifery unit (ie one which is not on the same site as an obstetrician-led service so not co-located), on how many days between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2025 was this suspended or restricted (ie women would not have been admitted if they went into labour – even if no women needed the service on these days)? **None**
4. How many women in labour were unable to access the unit to give birth on these days? **N/A**
5. If you have more than one standalone midwifery unit please answer these questions separately for each one. **One standalone BC was restricted for 5 hours due to no water availability. No requests for births here took place during those 5 hours**

By day we mean the 24 hours from midnight to midnight: we are asking about suspensions or restrictions at any point during the day even if they did not last for the whole 24 hours.

We are only asking about birth services – not antenatal or postnatal services.

Attachment(s)

No Attachment(s)

Date Response sent: 27 November 2025