

Our Ref: 385  
May 2024

## Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I would like to request the following information:

1. Do each of your maternity units which offer consultant-led births have two obstetric theatres available 24/7 with a full complement of staff available should the second theatre be needed?

Both units have access to two theatres, and staff for them if required. This may be via an on call system (out of hours) for the second theatre. In hours staff will be moved to open the second theatre when required. The first theatre is always staffed.

How long does it take to mobilise the second theatre and staff if it needed?

In hours max 15-20 mins, out of hours staff may need to come from home and have to attend within 30 mins

2. If you don't have a second obstetric theatre, what arrangements are in place should you have two obstetric emergencies requiring theatres at the same time? What hours are covered by these arrangements?

N/A

3. If you don't have a second obstetric theatre, have you any plans to establish one? Has funding been obtained and how much?

N/A

4. How long approximately does it take to transfer a woman from the labour ward to 1. Your normal obstetric theatre? 2. Whichever additional theatre would be used in the event of two emergencies at the same time?

At DRI – theatres 1 & 2 on the same floor through a door – Max 5 mins

At BDGH – 1 is on the labour ward (few mins) and 2 in main theatre block 5 mins

5. Have you had any serious incidents/Datix (or other reporting system) reports in the last three years involving lack of timely access to fully staffed theatres in maternity emergencies?

No

6. Please attach any policies you have on maternity emergencies/escalation.

This question needs clarity – is it related to conditions that constitute an emergency or the maternity escalation / suspension policy ?

Maternity don't have a specific one related to opening theatres, that will be with the theatre team in CSS

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