

Reference:	FOI.21557.26
Subject:	Bereavement maternity suites
Date of Request:	9 September 2026

Requested:

I would like to receive information relating to bereavement maternity suites - for use of parents after losing a baby in or shortly after birth.

1. How many bereavement maternity suites are in your trust? (By a bereavement maternity suite, I mean a hospital room or space dedicated to families whose baby is stillborn or has died shortly after birth)
2. Please list the number of suites at each hospital in your trust and when they opened (month and year if possible)
3. Is each suite physically separate from the labour/maternity ward ward where parents cannot hear other babies? If some are and some aren't, please give details of each.
4. Are CuddleCots or cold cots are available in each suite?
5. How many maternity/labour wards are there in your trust which do not have a bereavement suite?
6. If there is a maternity/labour ward without a bereavement suite, are there plans to make one and what is the timeframe?
7. Do you employ a dedicated bereavement midwife or midwives
8. If you do, how many
9. How many unfilled bereavement midwife roles do you have?
10. Is their sole purpose to support bereaved families or are their duties split?
11. Do you have a dedicated bereavement councillor for families whose baby is stillborn or has died shortly after birth?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms it has two (2) bereavement maternity suites.
2. The UHB has two (2) Obstetric units which house one (1) dedicated bereavement suite each. Details of when each suite was opened can be found within the table below:

Hospital	Year Opened
Glangwili General Hospital (GGH)	A new dedicated suite opened in 2022 following a labour ward upgrade, prior to this a dedicated suite had been open since 2014

3. The UHB confirms that the dedicated bereavement suite in GGH is physically separate from the main labour ward and is soundproof, providing a private environment for families experiencing the loss of a baby.

The dedicated bereavement suite in BGH is located within the maternity unit and is not physically separate from the maternity unit. However, it is situated at the far end of the unit and is away from the main clinical activity areas. As BGH has a relatively small Obstetric unit, every effort is made to provide a quiet, private and respectful environment for bereaved families. This includes careful management of room allocation and patient flow to minimise exposure to other women, babies and visitors wherever practicable.

4. CuddleCots and cold cots are available in each dedicated bereavement suite. Additionally, CuddleCots can also be provided for bereaved families to take home.
5. The UHB confirms it does not have any maternity/labour wards without a bereavement suite.
6. Not applicable.
7. The UHB confirms it does employ a dedicated bereavement midwife/midwives.
8. The UHB confirms it employs 0.6 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) dedicated bereavement midwives.
9. The UHB confirms it currently has 0.4 unfilled WTE due to retirement.
10. The bereavement midwife's role is dedicated to supporting bereaved families. Whilst the postholders also hold separate roles within maternity services, when undertaking their bereavement midwife duties, they have no other clinical responsibilities.
11. The UHB confirms it does have a dedicated bereavement councillor which bereaved families have access to.