

Reference:	FOI.15813.24
Subject:	Home births
Date of Request:	24 October 2024

Requested:

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

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does operate a homebirth service.
2. Yes, the homebirth service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
3. The UHB has been able to offer a home birth service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with no suspensions, during the last 12-month period.
4. Not applicable.
5. No, The UHB has not experienced an occasion whereby it has been unable to send midwives to attend a home birth during the last 12-month period.
6. The table below provides the number of homebirths attended by midwives, and details of subsequent transfers within the UHB between 1 October 2023 and 31 October 2024.

Description	Number
Homebirths attended	118

Homebirth no transfer	100
Transfer into hospital from homebirth	18