



FOI 3324

Date 24/10/2024

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

I have several questions for the team that manages the maternity department. This may be the manager of the Women's and Children's directorate (although this differs by hospital)

- 1. Are they aware that the reported bed occupancy at the maternity units is higher than may be expected for their size?**
- 2. Has any National or Professional Society guidance ever been published on how to correctly size a maternity unit?**
- 3. Do they have any planning documents relating to the choice of the current number of maternity beds?**

From a design perspective, we use Health Building Notes (HBNs) as an indicator and recommendation for functional service design. The HBN recommendations are always balanced with local knowledge, pathways, models of care and other nuances around service risk, opportunity and strategy.

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Yours sincerely,



FOI Officer

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust