# Major Concerns Raised Over England's Maternity Units Amid Calls for Systemic Improvements



More than half of England's maternity units have been found to need improvements, according to an extensive review by MailOnline. The audit revealed that 53% of facilities were labeled as 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Among the hospitals highlighted for concern were the Royal Sussex County Hospital and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, both of which faced issues related to understaffing and facility conditions posing safety risks.

In terms of birth trauma, recent scrutiny shines a light on concerning practices and experiences within NHS maternity services. A parliamentary inquiry facilitated by MPs Rosie Duffield and Theo Clarke, following testimony from numerous women, concluded with several recommendations aimed at resolving the systemic failings. These included increasing healthcare staff, advancing maternal mental health access, and digitising health records.

Simultaneously, a series of investigative reports into various NHS trusts over the last few years uncovered repeated failures that contributed to the harm or death of mothers and babies, further underscoring systemic issues within maternity services. NHS officials and the Health Secretary have acknowledged these findings and incidents, with the Health Secretary describing the referenced personal testimonials as "harrowing".

Lastly, personal stories from individuals like former television star Louise Thompson and others offered stark, personal insights into their traumatic experiences during childbirth at NHS facilities, which have prompted wider public discussions on the quality and safety of maternity care in England.

These disclosures are part of broader coverage that follows several damning investigations into the NHS's maternity services over recent years, emphasizing the urgent need for systemic improvements.