

Children's (Under 18's) Operations Cancelled / Delayed

Reference Number: RDF1242-23

Date of Response: 21/02/2023

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services). The responses below represent a combined picture of two Trust's.

- The number of Children (Under 18) who have had an operation cancelled or delayed at your trust for non-clinical reasons, in each of the past five calendar years (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018).

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
East Service & Northern Service combined total	43	26	72	83	140

- For each of these years, please could you provide figures broken down by the reason behind the cancellation or delay, e.g. lack of staff, lack of bed capacity, or lack of equipment.

<5 In accordance with Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide figures where the number of patients/staff is less than or equal to five and could risk the identification of those patients and breach Caldicott principles.

In these cases, ≤5 is used to indicate that a figure between 1 and 5 is being suppressed. The disclosure of which could risk the identification of and breach Caldicott principles.

This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients/staff and should not be published.

Q2 East Service - Cancellation Reason	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Anaesthesia - Anaesthetist Unavailable				<5	<5
Hospital - Escalation/ICU			5	<5	
Hospital - No ITU/HDU Bed Available				<5	<5
Hospital - No Recovery Bed Available					<5
Hospital - No Ward Bed Available	6	<5	5	9	14
Hospital - Unplanned Staff Absence (Other)				6	6
Hospital - Unplanned Staff Absence (Sickness)				7	8
Hospital Cancellation - COVID-19			31	36	29
Industrial action (any staff group)					<5
Surgeon - Surgeon/Main Operator Unavailable		<5	7	5	<5
Theatre Management - List Interrupted for a More Urgent Case		<5		<5	

Theatre Management - List Overran - Long Case/Too Many Cases		<5		<5	
Theatre Management - Theatre Staff Unavailable			<5		<5
No Theatre Time	<5				
Other	<5				
Adverse Weather	<5				
Equip/Resource	<5	<5			

Q2 Northern Service - Cancellation Reason	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Adverse Weather - Hospital	<5				
Clinician Unavailable	<5	<5			<5
Clinician unavailable (Hospital)					<5
Documentation Incomplete		<5			
Emergencies/Urgent	<5	<5	<5		
Equip/docs/investigations incomplete (Hospital)				<5	
Equipment Unavailable/Failure		<5	<5	<5	
HDU/ICU Beds Unavailable			<5		
Hospital cancelled - Pandemic			10	<5	<5
List Changes	5				
List Overbooked		<5			<5
List under booked				<5	<5
Operation Abandoned				<5	
Surgeon Unavailable	<5			<5	
Ward Beds Unavailable	13	6	<5	<5	15
Ward Delay		<5			
Anaesthesia - Anaesthetist Unavailable					5
Hospital - No Recovery Bed Available					8
Hospital - No Ward Bed Available					15
Hospital - Other Reason for Cancellation - Please Specify					7
Hospital - Unplanned Staff Absence (Other)					<5
Surgeon - Surgeon/Main Operator Unavailable					<5
Theatre Management - List Overran - Long Case/Too Many Cases					<5
Theatre Management - Theatre Staff Unavailable					<5

3. Please could you provide figures on the five longest waits for an operation currently faced by under-18s at your trust, e.g. 110 days, 98 days, 200 days. For each of these waits, please could you provide a summary of the surgical procedure in question, e.g. heart surgery.

Please see Trust totals (joint) as follows:

Days	Procedure
757	LATERAL RECTUS RECESSION
721	Awaiting follow up outpatient appt
709	Awaiting follow up outpatient appt
702	Paediatric Examination of eyes under anaesthetic
694	BILATERAL RECESSION OF MEDIAL RECTI MUSCLES OF EYES - patient has now been treated