

Title: Nursing Strikes Chemotherapy Appointments

Reference Number: RDF1298-23

Date of Response: 23/03/23

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

I am submitting a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding cancer treatment - specifically chemotherapy appointments - at healthcare providers during the last nursing strike over February 6th & 7th 2023. My question is whether chemotherapy appointments were disrupted due to the strikes and the specific numbers of appointments impacted.

Please let me know if this trust does not provide chemotherapy appointments.

The questions are below:

- 1. How many chemotherapy appointments were cancelled, rescheduled or moved at this hospital due to the last nurses strike over February 6 & 7?*

Answer: Eastern Services: 6th February: 45 - 50, 7th February: 42 – 45. There was no impact to delivery on either day for Northern services.

- a. Can you please explain in more detail the reasons why they were rescheduled?*

Answer: Eastern Services: Clinic list kept to a minimum to avoid cancellations on the day.

- 2. Was this trust involved in the strike over January 18th & 19th 2023, or 15th & 20th December 2022?*

Answer: Yes, in December.

- a. and were any chemotherapy appointments cancelled, moved or disrupted on those days? If so how many, and can you explain the reasons?*

Answer: Eastern Services: Approximately 45-50 were reassigned new dates within 24 hours, clinic list were kept to a minimum to avoid cancellations on the day. There was no impact to delivery on either day for Northern services.

- 3. In general, what is the time lag for rescheduling the appointments? i.e. how long would the majority of patients have waited for a new chemotherapy appointment after the strikes?*

Answer: Eastern Services: All appointments in December were rescheduled either side of the strike days. In February most patients booked around the strike days some patients deferred but reschedule within a week. There was no impact to delivery on either day for Northern services.