

## Cancelled Operations

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Reference Number: RDF1613-23

Date of Response: 29/08/23

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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).

*Dear Sir/Madam,*

*Please may I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act, on patients who have their operation cancelled several times at your Trust.*

- 1. Please can you provide figures on the total number of patients who have had their operation cancelled for a second time. I would like these figures broken down by year for each of the past five years: 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018.*

*For context, I am looking for incidents where the surgery was cancelled for non-clinical reasons (i.e. staff shortages, equipment problems, lack of theatre capacity) and also not at the request of the patient.*

YEAR	COUNT
2018	*
2019	*
2020	*
2021	87
2022	374
2023 (up to 30/6/2023)	385

*\*The Trust are unable to validate information held on legacy systems for 2018 – 2020.*

- 2. In addition, please can you provide the largest number of times that a single patient has had their operation cancelled for non-clinical reasons, over the past five years. Please could you name the operation in question (e.g. hip replacement), and the year that the last cancellation took place (e.g. 2022).*

Answer: 5 cancellations for non-clinical reasons, last cancellation in 2023.

It is not possible to absolutely clarify that all causes are hospital related.

Firstly, it appears that the patient was on two waiting lists at one time and this would normally mean that a patient waiting a cardiology review, would not be on active waiting list for another procedure until given the all clear to proceed. So, in this scenario, it would appear as a hospital cancellation but really for clinical reasons.

Please note that there are patients without a specific cancellation reason that are placed into the 'Other' category. These are excluded from the figures supplied.