

Cancelled Cancer Operations

Reference Number: RDF1953-23

Date of Response: 06/11/23

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 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).

1. *How many cancer operations have been cancelled by your NHS Trust in each of the past four financial years: 2022/23, 2021/22, 2020/21 and 2019/20.*

Answer: Please see table below. The Trust is unable to validate information held on legacy systems before October 2020 for Royal Devon's Eastern Services and July 2022 for Royal Devon's Northern Services.

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>2020/21</i>	<i>*141</i>
<i>2021/22</i>	<i>**251</i>
<i>2022/23</i>	<i>***403</i>

*2020/2021 Cancellations for Eastern Services only available from October 2020.

**2021/2022 Cancellations for Eastern Services only.

***2022/23 Cancellations for both Eastern & Northern Services, noting that Northern Services data is only available from July 2022 only.

2. *The highest number of times a patient's cancer operation has been cancelled at your NHS Trust since the start of 2022.*

Answer: 4.

3. *Please could you provide a breakdown for the reasons these cancer operations were cancelled each year, e.g. lack of staff, lack of beds, or equipment issues.*

Answer: Please see table below.

<i>Cancellation Reason</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>**2023</i>
Administrative Error	6	15	13	22
Anaesthesia - Anaesthetist Unavailable	0	0	3	2
Equipment Unavailable/Broken/Failed	0	0	2	2
Hospital - Awaiting Further Investigations	4	11	15	17
Hospital - Escalation/ICU	15	3	0	0
Hospital - No Ward Bed Available	0	4	8	8
*Hospital - Other Reason for Cancellation - Please Specify	34	146	192	254
Hospital - Unplanned Staff Absence (Other)	0	8	8	11
Hospital - Unplanned Staff Absence (Sickness)	0	6	32	7

Hospital Cancellation - COVID-19	14	12	44	4
Industrial action (any staff group)	0	0	7	13
Insufficient ITU/HDU Beds	1	6	6	4
Insufficient Recovery Beds	0	0	2	1
List Overran - Long Case/Overbooked	2	2	15	16
Surgeon - Surgeon/Main Operator Unavailable	4	5	3	20
Theatre Management - List Interrupted for a More Urgent Case	3	1	2	4
Theatre Management - List Start Delayed	0	1	1	4
Theatre Management - Theatre Staff Unavailable	0	1	1	0

*'Hospital – Other Reasons' – The large number of cancellations in the EHR system were historically categorised under a generic classification. Cancellation reasons are recorded in 'free-text' fields/comments and would require manual interrogation to ratify each individual cancellation.

**2023 cancellations up to 30th September 2023.