

Title

Cancelled or Delayed Child Surgical Procedures

Reference Number: RDF2310-24

Date of Response: 08/03/24

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you provide me with information on children's surgical procedures that have been cancelled or delayed at your Trust.

1. The number of children (under 18s) who have a surgical procedure cancelled or delayed at your Trust, in each of the past five calendar years (2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019).

2. 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.

Please see Trust answers to question 1 and 2 below.

Reason for Cancellation	Oct 2020	2021	2022	2023
Administrative Error	0	8	14	25
Equipment Unavailable/Broken/Failed	0	0	*<5	*<5
Hospital escalation/insufficient beds available/infection control inc Covid	27	42	80	41
Other	23	64	124	162
Patient Cancelled/DNA/No longer required/Unfit for surgery	20	99	214	297
Staffing Issue	9	16	39	83

*<5 Section 40 (2)

Please note that in accordance with Section 40 (2) where activity is 5 or less than 5, the Trust is unable to provide the exact information. We consider the data exempt on the following grounds:

The Trust considers that disclosure of the information risks identifying individuals. The reason for this is that the number of patients for which this applies is very low. This and the fact that the data requested relates to the RDUH Health NHS Trust only and therefore relates to patients treated in a specific location (rather than covering a larger geographical area), increases the risk of identification or self-identification. The Trust's view is that s.40(2) is applicable because disclosure of information which could lead to a patient being identified would be a breach of the patient's rights

under the Data Protection Act Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the GDPR, namely Principle 1.

3. Please could you provide figures on the five longest waits for a surgical procedure currently faced by under-18s at your Trust, e.g., 118 days, 116 days, 113 days. For each of these waits, please could you provide a summary of the surgical procedure in question, e.g., heart surgery.

Trust answer: Please see below the 10 longest waiting list entries for patients <18, and not specifically those for a surgical procedure as requested as we are unable to produce that information. Our waiting list data is recorded by Specialty rather than specific procedures.

Area	Waits in days
Paediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Service	627
Paediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Service	621
Paediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Service	619
Paediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Service	612
Paediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Service	600
Paediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Service	579
Paediatric Ophthalmology Service	577
Paediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Service	572
Paediatric Ophthalmology Service	558
Paediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Service	555