

Cancelled Cancer Appointments

Reference Number: RDF1780-23

Date of Response: 14/09/23

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).

I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the following:

- 1. How many cancer appointments have been cancelled at your trust due to industrial action since 1st December 2022:*

Answer: 173 Cancer appointments were cancelled due to industrial action from 1st December 2022 to 31st August 2023.

- 2. Which type of cancer had the most cancelled appointments and how many was that?*

Answer:

Where recorded* Breast had the most cancellations due to industrial action from 1st December 2022 to 31st August 2023 – 26 cancelled appointments.

*Please note that for Cancelled appointments, we can identify if it is a Cancer appointment, but we cannot easily determine the type of Cancer, unless a scheduled appointment forms part of a specific Cancer pathway. While it is possible to infer from a patient diagnosis what type of Cancer an appointment is for, it is an assumption at best, given that patients can have multiple Cancer diagnoses. Outside of this, the only other way would be to check each and every patient individually.