

Title Cancelled Cancer Operations

Reference Number: RDF1940-23

Date of Response: 15/11/23

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).

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please can I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act on cancer operations that have been cancelled at your trust.

- 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.*

Fin Year	Cancellation Count
2020/2021	15
2021/2022	35
2022/2023	65
Grand total	115

- Please could you provide a breakdown for the reasons these operations were cancelled e.g., lack of staff, lack of beds, or equipment issues, again broken down by the financial years 2022/23, 2021/22, 2020/21 and 2019/20.*

Please see Trust response on page 2. Please note:

Section 40(2) exemption: Where the figures are between 1 and 5, this has been denoted by * <5.

Due to the low numbers, we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act, namely Principle 1. The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

Cancellation Reason	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Administrative Error	*<5	*<5	*<5
Anaesthesia - Anaesthetist Unavailable	0	0	*<5
Equipment Unavailable/Broken/Failed	*<5		*<5
Hospital - No Ward Bed Available	*<5	*<5	7
Hospital - Unplanned Staff Absence (Other)	0	*<5	0
Hospital - Unplanned Staff Absence (Sickness)	0	11	9
Hospital Cancellation - COVID-19	*<5	6	10
Insufficient ITU/HDU Beds	*<5	*<5	*<5
List Overran - Long Case/Overbooked	*<5	*<5	11
Surgeon - Surgeon/Main Operator Unavailable	*<5	*<5	*<5
Theatre Management - List Interrupted for a More Urgent Case			*<5
Theatre Management - List Start Delayed		*<5	*<5
Hospital Cancelled - Appointment Moved		*<5	6
Hospital Cancelled - Clinic Cancellation			*<5
Hospital Cancelled - Clinician on Leave / On Call			*<5
Hospital Cancelled - Nursing Shortage	*<5	*<5	