



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2022/8637

Date Received: 24th January 2023

Response Due: 21st February 2023

Date:

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

1. The number of children (under 18s) who have an operation cancelled or delayed at your trust for non-clinical reasons, in each of the past five calendar years (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018).

Year	Number of children (under 18s) who have an operation cancelled or delayed
2018	146
2019	149
2020	37
2021	137
2021	186

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.

Cancellation Description	Year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Administrative Error	9	6	<5	10	7
Anaesthetist Unavailable	0	<5	0	0	0
Bed Shortage	6	0	0	<5	51
Consultant / Surgeon Unavailable	18	12	<5	9	21
Emergency / Urgent Case Took Priority	21	33	10	51	12
Equipment Unavailable / Failure	7	<5	<5	<5	16
Hospital Cancellation by Consultant	15	8	8	12	21
Management Instructions	15	14	6	<5	<5
Medical Staff Shortage	7	10	<5	12	16
No Operating Time Left / Theatre Numbers Exceeded	<5	9	0	0	<5
Not Received Letter	0	2	0	0	<5
Nursing Shortage	0	0	0	0	<5
Operation Brought Forward	14	35	<5	<5	10
Patient Already Inpatient	0	<5	0	<5	0
Theatre Closed / Session Cancelled	25	<5	<5	<5	5
Theatre Staff Unavailable	5	7	<5	23	6
Treatment / Procedure Abandoned	0	<5	<5	<5	12

Refusal Notice: Sec 40(2) Personal Information

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

3. Please could you provide figures on the five longest waits for an operation 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.

WL Primary Procedure Description	Days Wait
Adenotonsillectomy Ga	450
Bilateral Excision of Tonsil Neck	441
Exploration Of Mastoid	441
Circumcision	428
Circumcision	421

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 28 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Arya
Medical Director

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111