

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

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

Ref: FOI/2024/9613

Date Received: 9th February 2024

Response Due: 8th March 2024

Date: 7th March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 9th February 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

- 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).**

Year	Number of Cancellations	Number of Delays
2019	371	237
2020	174	127
2021	252	179
2022	418	255
2023	398	274

- 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.**

	Year				
Cancellation Reason	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
At Patients Request	137	30	58	101	71
Hospital reason	29	75	55	38	65

Other (please specify)	47	24	21	64	92
Patient DNA	19	<5	7	32	28
Operation not necessary (Hosp Canc)	27	9	16	14	18
COVID 19 Related		8	19	42	
Emergencies/Trauma	17	<5	23	<5	20
Patient not Clinically fit for OP	18	<5	9	14	17
Bed Shortage			<5	47	
Medical staff decision	<5	<5	<5	14	18
Lack of theatre time	8	<5	<5	6	9
Theatre staff unavailable	6	<5	13	<5	5
Medical staff shortage	10		<5	8	
Administrative Error	<5		<5	7	9
Equipment/Environment failure	<5			<5	18
DNA	10	7			
Unfit with acute illness (Hosp Canc)	11		<5	<5	<5
Operation not wanted (Patient Canc)	<5	<5	<5	5	<5
Surgeon unavailable	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Nursing Shortage			<5	6	<5
OP Brought Forward					8
Anaesthetist unavailable	<5				<5
Pre op guidance not followed		<5	<5	<5	<5
Surgeon or Anaesthetist unavailable	6				
Cancellation due to patient transfer	<5			<5	<5
Abandoned Procedure	<5		<5	<5	<5
Unfit for surgery (patient Canc)	<5				
Cancelled by Pre-Assessment				<5	
Was Not Brought				<5	<5
Appointment inconvenient			<5	<5	
Equipment not available					<5
Skill Mix (Inappropriate)	<5				
Ward beds unavailable				<5	
Pre-existing Medical condition		<5			
Unsuitable for day surgery				<5	

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:

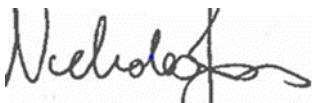
- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved,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

Specialty Description	Days Wait
ENT	530
Paediatric Dentistry	496
ENT	495
ENT	481
ENT	484

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 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Nicholas Jones
Interim Director of Operations and Performance

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