

Ref: FOI/2023/9291

Date Received: 10th October 2023

Response Due: 7th November 2023

Date: 6th November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

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.

Year	Number of Hospital Cancellations
2019/20	15
2020/21	8
2021/22	20
2022/23	8

The highest number of times a patient's operation has been cancelled at your NHS Trust since the start of 2022.

The highest number of cancelled operations is 2 however this has happened to more than one single patient.

Please could you provide a breakdown for the reasons these operations were cancelled each year, e.g. lack of staff, lack of beds, or equipment issues.

Cancellation Reason	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Abandoned Procedure	<5			
Bed Shortage	<5		<5	
Emergencies/Trauma		<5	<5	
Hospital reason	<5		<5	<5
ICU/HDU/ECU beds unavailable	<5			<5

Lack of theatre time	<5	<5	5	<5
Medical staff decision	<5	<5	<5	<5
Medical staff shortage			<5	
Operation not necessary (Hosp Canc)	<5			
Other (please specify)			<5	
Pre-existing Medical condition			<5	
Surgeon unavailable		<5	<5	<5
Theatre staff unavailable			<5	

In line with national and trust policy, all patients whose cancer operation(s) were cancelled but still required, would have them rebooked at the next available opportunity.

Refusal Notice: Sec 40(2) Personal Information

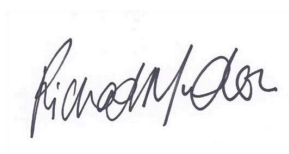
The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

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).

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,



Richard Mundon
 Director of Strategy and Planning

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