

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you provide me with information on children's operations that have been cancelled or delayed at your trust for non-clinical reasons.

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).

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.

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.

Answers:

Question 1:

The number of cancellations of under-18s each year, broken down by cancellation reason:

Reason Description	Year Cancelled					Grand Total	
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018		
Anaesthetist unavailable	1			1	0	12	
Consultant unavailable	5	5	2	1	2	45	
Theatre staff (incl. Consultant) or patient have tested positive for Covid on admission			6	8	6	9	83
Equipment unavailable on the day	2	3	3	3	7	18	
No General bed available				4	7	11	
Consultant deems patient too unwell with a long term condition to proceed		1		2		3	
Consultant decision		4	1	2	3	10	
Consultant decision – non clinical decision eg lack of time available in theatre					5	5	
Consultant decision – clinical decision eg procedure no longer required					3	3	
Other reason	2	1	1	3	2		
	2	7	6	4	1	110	

Other clinical decision					1 5	15
Other non-clinical decision					1 7	17
Short term illness (eg cold) - patient deemed too unwell to proceed	2	2	2	7	2	15
Theatre unavailable (eg previous procedure overrun)	2	1		1 8	7	28
Urgent cases taken priority	4	7	8	1	9	29
Administration error i.e. incorrect procedure listed	1	1		6	3	11
Emergency procedure taken priority	3			1		4
No intensive care bed available			1			1
			1		1	
Grand Total	4 2	4 1	0 1	9 6	4 0	420

Question 2:

A table of the longest waiting under-18s divided by specialty is given below. Unfortunately due to data protection reasons we cannot specify the exact procedure.

Weeks Wait as at 31/12/2022	Specialty
85	TRAUMA & ORTHOPAEDICS
80	PODIATRY
74	ENT
72	TRAUMA & ORTHOPAEDICS
67	TRAUMA & ORTHOPAEDICS