

Our Ref: 121/2024
February 2024

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 surgical procedures that have been cancelled or delayed at your trust.

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).
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.
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.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

See below

A breakdown of children's cancelled operations from 2019 to 2023, along with the reason for their cancellation is provided below. Please note that due to confidentiality reasons we cannot provide figures comprising below 5 patients.

Reason Code	Reason Description	Year Cancelled				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ADMIN	Administration error i.e. incorrect procedure listed	Less than 5	Less than 5	10	12	24

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ANAE	Anaesthetist unavailable	0	0	Less than 5	12	11
CONSULTANT	Consultant unavailable	7	Less than 5	7	30	38
COVID19	Theatre staff (incl. Consultant) or patient have tested positive for Covid on admission	0	57	6	9	0
DECISION	Decision to cancel (covers a variety of reasons)	Less than 5	0	0	0	0
EMERGENCY	Emergency procedure taken priority	0	0	Less than 5	0	Less than 5
EQUIPMENT	Equipment unavailable on the day	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	5	Less than 5
GEN BED	No General bed available	0	0	Less than 5	10	Less than 5
INDUSTRIAL	Industrial action	0	0	0	0	9
MGEMENT	Consultant decision	5	Less than 5	Less than 5	0	0
MGMENT NON	Consultant decision – non clinical decision eg lack of time available in theatre	0	0	0	9	5
OTHER	Other reason	15	15	39	28	0
OTHER NON	Other non-clinical decision	0	0	0	25	33
THEATRE	Theatre unavailable (eg previous procedure overrun)	0	0	14	6	5
URGENT	Urgent cases taken priority	5	Less than 5	Less than 5	16	25
Total	Grand Total	40	83	87	162	154

For question 3, the five longest waiting children (under-18s) for surgical procedures is provided below. Unfortunately for confidentiality reasons we cannot provide the specific procedure, however we are able to provide the wider specialty for the waiter.

Weeks Wait as at 31/01/2024	Specialty
75	ENT
72	ENT
70	ENT
70	ENT
69	ENT