

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 22-570

14 October 2022

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we hold some of the information you are requesting

The total number of operations cancelled for non-clinical reasons, broken down by the cause of the cancellation, for example due to lack of beds, operating theatre capacity, staffing issues, and equipment failures, in 2022/23 (Q1 and Q2) (financial year, April to March).

In the total number of operations, broken down by cancellation reason, please include: Elective operations cancelled at the last minute. For the purposes of this request, last minute means on the day the patient was due to arrive, after the patient has arrived in hospital or on the day of the operation or surgery.

Year	2022/2023
Quarter	2022/2023 Q1

Cancellation Reason	Total
Total Cancellations	
HOSP NC - Booking Error	8
HOSP NC - Equipment Failure	10
HOSP NC - Equipment Unavailable	8
HOSP NC - No Anaesthetist	10
HOSP NC - No Critical Care Bed	25
HOSP NC - No Critical Care Staff	*
HOSP NC - No Lab Staff	9
HOSP NC - No Surgeon	37
HOSP NC - No Theatre Staff	66
HOSP NC - No Ward Bed	17
HOSP NC - Ran Out of Operating Time	84
HOSP NC - Rescheduled - Other Emergency Patient Prioritised	85

HOSP NC - Rescheduled / Postponed	83
HOSP NC - Rescheduled / Prioritised	9
HOSP NC - Theatre Failure / Repairs	7

Please note: Where the figures are between 1 and 5, this has been denoted by *. Due to the low numbers, we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act, namely Principle 1. The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. (Section 40 is the exemption for personal information).

Year	2022/2023
Quarter	2022/2023 Q2

Total Cancellations	
Cancellation Reason	Total
HOSP NC - Booking Error	13
HOSP NC - Equipment Failure	14
HOSP NC - Equipment Unavailable	9
HOSP NC - No Anaesthetist	*
HOSP NC - No Critical Care Bed	*
HOSP NC - No Lab Staff	8
HOSP NC - No Surgeon	31
HOSP NC - No Theatre Staff	60
HOSP NC - No Ward Bed	15
HOSP NC - Ran Out of Operating Time	53
HOSP NC - Rescheduled - Other Emergency Patient Prioritised	30
HOSP NC - Rescheduled / Postponed	61
HOSP NC - Rescheduled / Prioritised	17
HOSP NC - Theatre Failure / Repairs	*

Please note: Where the figures are between 1 and 5, this has been denoted by *. Due to the low numbers, we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act, namely Principle 1. The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. (Section 40 is the exemption for personal information).

• **Cancelled urgent operations.**

If the data is collected by the trust, please also provide a separate total for each year for all operations cancelled for non-clinical reasons, regardless of how soon before the scheduled operation time the cancellation occurred.

We do not hold this information; this is information on the Urgent and Emergency Care Situation Report that we are unable to report on.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust