



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-214

**Royal Stoke University Hospital**  
**Quality, Safety and Compliance Department**  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding operations cancelled.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 I write under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:**

**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. Please provide this information for each of the past three financial years (2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19). 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.
- Cancelled urgent operations.

For ease, please use the table below for responses.

Reason for Cancellation	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Lack of beds			
Operating theatre capacity / list over-ran			
Staffing issues			
Equipment failures			
Emergency case took priority			
Adverse weather			

<b>Booking / admin error</b>			
<b>Case note unavailable</b>			
<b>Other reasons</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

A1 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding total number of operations cancelled for non-clinical reasons for years 2016/17, 2017/18 but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link:  
<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/FOIdisclosurelog/Pages/default.aspx> (FOI reference 337-1819, August 2018/19)

Please see below for 2018/19:

Elective operations cancelled at the last minute

Count of Number of All Non-Clinical Cancellations	YEAR [APR-MAR] 2018 - 2019
No Suitable Beds Available	596
No Theatre Time Available	735
No Consultant Available	1029
No Anaesthetist Available	30
No Theatre Staff Available	40
No Nursing Staff Available	73
No Equipment Available	175

Cancelled urgent operations

Count of Number of URGENT Cancellations	YEAR [APR-MAR] 2018 - 2019
No Suitable Beds Available	9
No Theatre Time Available	19
No Consultant Available	4
No Anaesthetist Available	3

No Nursing Staff Available	0
No Equipment Available	1

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert  
Information Governance Manager

