

<b>File reference</b>	W17FOI242
<b>Key words</b>	Cancelled child operations
<b>Date of release</b>	22/05/2017
<b>Attachments</b>	Yes

## Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log - Reply Extract

### You asked

1. How many children's operations have been cancelled each month since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016? Please give additional details as to what the main reasons for the cancellations were, how many were urgent operations or elective operations, and what type of illness did they involve, e.g. cancer, breathing problems, broken limbs etc.
2. How many children's operations have been cancelled over the last four financial years to date?

### Our reply

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.

Please note that we have not been able to provide all of the information requested. Firstly, April 2017 data is not yet validated. Secondly, the definition that the trust uses to define an 'Urgent' cancellation is based on guidance from the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths (NCEPOD), this is explained below. We are unable to provide the patient illness type from the Electronic patient record. The information would be available in paper based clinical records, however to locate extract and collate the information requested would exceed the compliance limit specified in section 12.-(1) of the Act.

#### Definition of "urgent operation"

The definition of 'urgent operation' is one that should be agreed locally in the light of clinical and patient need. However, it is recommended that the guidance as suggested by the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths (NCEPOD) should be followed. Broadly these are:

- I. Immediate - Immediate (A) life saving or (B) limb or organ saving intervention. Operation target time within minutes of decision to operate.
- II. Urgent – acute onset or deterioration of conditions that threaten life, limb or organ survival. Operation target time within hours of decision to operate.

- III. Expedited – stable patient requiring early intervention for a condition that is not an immediate threat to life, limb or organ survival. Operation target time within days of decision to operate.
  
- IV. Elective – Surgical procedure planned or booked in advance of routine admission to hospital

Broadly, (I), (II) and (III) should be regarded as 'urgent' for the purpose of meeting this requirement.

**Attachments included:** Yes

Month	Total number of cancelled children's operations	Number of cancelled <b>urgent*</b> children's operations	Number of cancelled <b>elective</b> children's operations	Type of illness being treated e.g. cancer, breathing problems etc	Reasons for cancellation
Jul-16	6	0	6	Section 12.-(1) - This component of the request exceeds the appropriate limit	Anaesthetist sick/unavailable, No general bed available, No space on theatre list (emergency took priority), Theatre list overrun
Aug-16	5 or fewer	0	5 or fewer	Section 12.-(1) - This component of the request exceeds the appropriate limit	Anaesthetist sick/unavailable, Theatre list overrun
Sep-16	5 or fewer	0	5 or fewer	Section 12.-(1) - This component of the request exceeds the appropriate limit	No general bed available, No space on theatre list (emergency took priority), Theatre list overrun
Oct-16	5 or fewer	0	5 or fewer	Section 12.-(1) - This component of the request exceeds the appropriate limit	No space on theatre list (emergency took priority), Theatre list overrun
Nov-16	17	0	17	Section 12.-(1) - This component of the request exceeds the appropriate limit	Equipment missing/failure, No critical care bed available post operatively, No general bed available, No space on theatre list (emergency took priority), Other
Dec-16	5 or fewer	0	5 or fewer	Section 12.-(1) - This component of the request exceeds the appropriate limit	No general bed available, Other
Jan-17	13	0	13	Section 12.-(1) - This component of the request exceeds the appropriate limit	Lack of theatre staff, No general bed available, No space on theatre list (emergency took priority), Surgeon sick/unavailable, Other
Feb-17	15	0	15	Section 12.-(1) - This component of the request exceeds the appropriate limit	No general bed available, No space on theatre list (emergency took priority), Surgeon sick/unavailable, Other
Mar-17	13	0	13	Section 12.-(1) - This component of the request exceeds the appropriate limit	Equipment missing/failure, No critical care bed available post operatively, No general bed available, Theatre list overrun
Apr-17	data unavailable at present time				

Financial Year	Total number of cancelled children's operations
2013/14	33
2014/15	49
2015/16	74
2016/17	97
2017/18 (YTD)	data unavailable at present time

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