

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express and Star
Date of article	Saturday 23 rd June 2012
Reporter	Heather Large
Headline	500 operations are cancelled suddenly
First paragraph/s of article	More than 500 operations were cancelled at the last minute at Midland hospitals in just three months, Government figures have revealed today.
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	Elsewhere 105 operations were cancelled by the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals, 92 by the Dudley Group of Hospitals, 86 by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals and 74 by Mid-Staffordshire hospital trust.
Press enquiry	<p>Reporter is writing a story based on the latest cancelled operation figures for the period January to March 2012. During this period 92 non-urgent appointments were postponed by The Dudley Group.</p> <p>Questions: This figure is a lot lower than in previous months.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could we comment on why operations can be cancelled? 2. What, if anything, has been done to reduce the number?
Also issued to:	NA
Trust response	
<p>The Dudley Group always makes every effort to carry out operations on the day they are planned; however, there are some occasions when this is not possible and surgery has to be postponed.</p> <p>For the quarter 4 January to March 2012, we had to cancel 92 elective operations. Reasons for cancellations could include an emergency arising during a surgery session; out of time to carry out the operation, a consultant or anaesthetist is unavailable or because the patient is unfit (for example they have an underlying health issue) or unwell (for example a patient may have a cold).</p> <p>The primary reason for the number coming down is improved inpatient capacity management. We are continually trying to reduce the number of cancellations through better planning. We aim to reschedule patients within 28 days of cancellation.</p>	