

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-022024-000640

Date: 05/03/2024

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

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.

Response

Please note:

Please be aware that we cannot report on delayed procedures as we are unable to capture who is responsible for the delay (hospital or patient) or the reasons for delay electronically.

The first 2 questions below identify cancelled procedures on the day in line with national QMCO standards.

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).

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
19	11	12	31	31	104

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.

Cancellation Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Anaesthetist	< 5			< 5		< 5
Clinical				8	18	26
Hospital	< 5	< 5				6
Non-Clinical				12	13	25
Out of time	7	< 5	6	6		23
Patient	< 5		< 5	< 5		6
Surgeon	< 5		< 5			< 5
Theatre		< 5	< 5			< 5
Ward	6	< 5	< 5	< 5		12
Grand Total	19	11	12	31	31	104

As per NHS Digital rules the Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identification of the persons involved and cause distress to Families or Friends. So, Exemption Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act is applied.

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.

- 76 weeks Paeds Plastic Surgery
- 74.7 weeks Paeds Plastic Surgery (Operation performed 28/02/2024)
- 74 weeks Paeds Plastic Surgery
- 72.85 weeks Paeds Plastic Surgery
- 72.71 weeks Trauma & Orthopaedics

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust