



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-252

Date: 17th December 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 28th September 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding cancelled operations.

On 5th October 2020 you contacted us via email with the following amendment to your request:

I recently submitted an FOI request to your Trust regarding cancelled operations from March - September 2020 and the same period in 2019.

"I have realised that I can make my request more specific, and I would like therefore to please amend it to the following questions:

- a) How many operations in total has your Trust cancelled between 1st March and 30th September 2020 and can you give a breakdown of reasons for the cancellations? How many were urgent operations?
- b) How many operations in total has your Trust cancelled between 1st March and 30th September 2019 and can you give a breakdown of reasons for the cancellations? How many were urgent operations?
- c) How many operations in total has your Trust cancelled for Under 16s between 1st March and 30th September 2020, and can you give a breakdown of reasons for the cancellations? How many were urgent operations?
- d) How many operations in total has your Trust cancelled for Under 16s between 1st March and 30th September 2019, and can you give a breakdown of reasons for the cancellations? How many were urgent operations?

I'm sorry to add to the complexity of the request and am happy for the foi legal timeframe for response to start again from now".

We replied via email the same day asking you to supply the reference number that we would have acknowledged this request with in order to make these amendments and to avoid a delay in response.

On 14th October 2020 we again contacted you requesting the reference number as UHNM receives an excessive amount of requests and a reference number is required to avoid delay.

On 21st October 2020 after an intensive search of our system we located your request; we contacted you via email advising you of the reference number as asked for the following clarification on your new request:

Please supply clarification on the specific meaning of where you say *urgent*, is it on an urgent pathway or a non-elective admission?

On 27th November 2020 you replied via email with the following:

“Thank you for your emails. I'm sorry, for some reason they have been going to my spam folder.

When I say urgent I mean non-elective.”

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) 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 Freedom of Information Act to request the following information:

a) How many adult's operations were cancelled at your Trust from 1 March 2020 - 31 August 2020?

Amended question

a) How many operations in total has your Trust cancelled between 1st March and 30th September 2020 and can you give a breakdown of reasons for the cancellations? How many were urgent operations?

A1 As per you amendment above, We are unable to provide some of the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5.

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed. See below:

	16 and Over	
	Elective	Non-Elective
REASON		
No Theatre Time Available	49	150
No Anaesthetist available	24	90
Ran out of theatre time - list overbooked	26	33
Ran out of time - clinical complications	39	14
Consultant cancelled for an emergency patient	11	39
No detail provided	13	34
Patient admitted but treatment deferred	18	26
Ran out of time - priority emergency patient	12	31
Cancelled for priority emergency patient	11	26
Hospital - COVID-19	34	<5
No theatre time previous session overran	17	14
Surgeon unavailable	17	14

Q2 How many adult's operations were cancelled at your Trust from 1 March 2019 - 31 August 2019?

Amended question

b) How many operations in total has your Trust cancelled between 1st March and 30th September 2019 and can you give a breakdown of reasons for the cancellations? How many were urgent operations?

A2 As per you amendment above, see below:

	16 and Over		Grand Total
	Elective	Non-Elective	
REASON			
No Theatre Time Available	110	157	267
Ran out of time - clinical complications	105	31	136
No Anaesthetist available	67	61	128
Ran out of theatre time - list overbooked	62	55	117
Cancelled for priority emergency patient	45	58	103
No suitable post-op beds available	76	25	101
Major incident in progress	87	6	93
Consultant cancelled for an emergency patient	49	38	87
Ran out of time - priority emergency patient	29	54	83
Patient admitted but treatment deferred	49	11	60
No detail provided	13	42	55
Grand Total	692	538	1230

Q3 How many children's operations were cancelled at your Trust from 1 March 2020 - 31 August 2020?

Amended question

c) How many operations in total has your Trust cancelled for Under 16s between 1st March and 30th September 2020, and can you give a breakdown of reasons for the cancellations? How many were urgent operations?

A3 As per you amendment above, We are unable to provide some of the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5.

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed. See below:

	Under 16	
	Elective	Non-Elective
REASON		
No Anaesthetist available	<5	6

Patient admitted but treatment deferred	<5	<5
No Theatre Time Available	<5	<5
Consultant cancelled major incident taking place	<5	
Ran out of theatre time - list overbooked	<5	<5
Cancelled for priority emergency patient	<5	
Surgeon unavailable		<5
No detail provided		<5
No theatre time previous session overran		<5
Patient fed on ward		<5
Consultant cancelled for an emergency patient		<5
Theatre required clean before session		<5

Q4 How many children's operations were cancelled at your Trust from 1 March 2019 - 31 August 2019?

Amended question

d) How many operations in total has your Trust cancelled for Under 16s between 1st March and 30th September 2019, and can you give a breakdown of reasons for the cancellations? How many were urgent operations?

A4 As per you amendment above, We are unable to provide some of the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5.

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed. See below:

	Under 16	
	Elective	Non-Elective
REASON		
No Theatre Time Available	9	7
Ran out of theatre time - list overbooked	<5	<5
No Anaesthetist available	<5	<5
Patient admitted but treatment deferred	5	
Consultant cancelled major incident taking place	<5	
Ran out of time - clinical complications	<5	<5
No detail provided	<5	<5
Surgeon unavailable	<5	
Ran out of time - priority emergency patient	<5	<5

Surgeon sick		<5
Theatre staff delayed attending emergency		<5

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

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

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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.

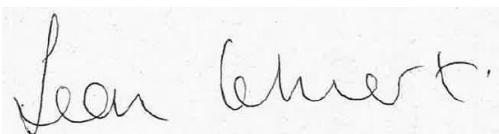
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,





**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager

