

Freedom of Information request 435-18

Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request 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 five financial years (i.e. years running from April to March - 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18).

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.

If the data is collected by the trust, please also provide a separate total for each year for all operations cancelled for non-clinical reasons, regardless of how soon before the scheduled operation time the cancellation occurred.

Response

Please find below data as per request:

All Procedures Cancelled

Reason	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
Bed Availability	91	140	110	156	175	672
Staff Availability (inc sickness)	15	76	65	24	69	249
Out of Time / List Overran	18	34	61	16	31	160
Emergency Took Priority	4	24	35	16	46	125
Equipment Issues	5	4	17	5	5	36
Inappropriately Listed	3	3	12	3	7	28
Staff Other Reasons (not classified)	9	2	6	1	6	24
Other (unknown)	26	4	0	0	0	30
Total	171	287	306	221	339	1324

Note: Definition of reportable cancelled procedure is within 48 hours

Elective Operations cancelled on day of procedure i.e. last minute

	2013'14	2014'15	2015'16	2016'17	2017'18	Total
Other Urgent Case	5	12	9	4	36	66
Cancelled by Patient	118	208	184	237	224	971
Bed Availability	69	60	37	68	51	285
Cancelled by Hospital	49	54	63	49	81	296
Grand Total	241	334	293	358	392	1618

Cancelled At Last Minute (Defined as Cancelled on Day of Procedure)

Reason	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
Bed Availability	51	58	46	73	65	293
Emergency Took Priority	4	18	26	14	38	100
Out of Time / List Overran	18	29	45	15	27	134
Staff Availability (inc sickness)	6	19	27	7	34	93
Equipment Issues	5	4	6	4	5	24
Inappropriately Listed	2	2	11	3	4	22
Staff Other Reasons (not classified)	1	2	5	0	5	13
Other (unknown)	5	4	0	0	0	9
Total	92	136	166	116	178	688

Note:

The definition used for cancellations is within 48 hours of procedure (this is the national definition we work to in terms of reporting and publication). Urgent cancellations have been taken as the definition of needing a procedure within 24 hours. 'Cancelled at last minute' has been defined as cancellations on the day of procedure.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **435-18** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.