



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2024/9888

Date Received: 28th May 2024

Response Due: 25th June 2024

Date: 21st June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 28th May 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

- 1. How many elective operations were cancelled for a non-clinical reason at the Trust in 2021/22, broken down by reason for cancellation? In case helpful, I have provided a table for ease of response:**

Reason for cancellation	Number
Lack of beds	Being withheld under Section 44 – see below.
Operating theatre capacity / list over-ran	136
Staffing issues	Being withheld under Section 44 – see below.
Equipment failures	81
Emergency case took priority	656
Adverse weather	<5
Booking / admin error	318
Case note unavailable	0
Other reasons	678

2. How many elective operations were cancelled for a non-clinical reason at the Trust in 2022/23, broken down by reason for cancellation? In case helpful, I have provided a table for ease of response:

Reason for cancellation	Number
Lack of beds	Being withheld under Section 44 – see below.
Operating theatre capacity / list over-ran	137
Staffing issues	Being withheld under Section 44 – see below.
Equipment failures	177
Emergency case took priority	874
Adverse weather	<5
Booking / admin error	554
Case note unavailable	0
Other reasons	805

3. How many elective operations were cancelled for a non-clinical reason at the Trust in 2023/24, broken down by reason for cancellation? In case helpful, I have provided a table for ease of response:

Reason for cancellation	Number
Lack of beds	Being withheld under Section 44 – see below.
Operating theatre capacity / list over-ran	263
Staffing issues	Being withheld under Section 44 – see below.
Equipment failures	200
Emergency case took priority	1,315
Adverse weather	<5
Booking / admin error	756
Case note unavailable	0
Other reasons	971

Section 44 – Prohibitions on disclosure

Section 44(1)(a) of the FOIA provides that information is exempt information if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. This is commonly known as a statutory bar to disclosure. It is an absolute exemption and so there is no public interest test to apply.

This information is exempt under section 44 of the FOIA because it is considered that due to the forthcoming local election, it could affect public support for a particular party. Should you wish to submit a new request for this information following the election, the council would be happy to consider this.

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Wannell
Interim Chief Operating Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111