



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

19<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Deputy Louise O' Reilly  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine  
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan  
An Ceantar Theas  
An Bothar Mileata  
Cill Mhaighneann  
BÁC 8

Acute Operations  
Health Service Executive  
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building  
Heuston South Quarter  
Military Road  
Kilmainham  
Dublin 8.

**PQ 51930/19 \*To ask the Minister for Health the number of elective surgeries cancelled in each hospital in each month January to November 2019; and the reason for cancellation in tabular form.**

**PQ 51939/19 \* To ask the Minister for Health the number of cataract surgeries cancelled nationally by hospital in each of the years 2016 to 2018 and to date 2019, in tabular form.**

**PQ 51940/19 \*To ask the Minister for Health the number of ENT surgeries cancelled for children nationally by hospital in each of the years 2016 to 2018 and to date 2019, in tabular form.**

Dear Deputy O' Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

**Response:**

The cancellation of elective surgeries occurs due to a variety of reasons. I have listed some examples of when a cancellation can occur:

- Had procedure externally
- Already had procedure in-house
- Cancelled by Consultant
- Cancelled by patient/guardian
- Cancelled no bed
- Correction of clerical error
- No theatre time available
- Patient Did not Attend
- Patient has undergone emergency admission
- Patient unfit

The HSE does not collect detailed information centrally in relation to the reasons for cancellations and numbers per specialty.

The annual service plan sets out the totality of Acute Hospitals' Inpatient and Day Case Activity to be delivered in the year. The expected in-patient and day case activity to be delivered in 2020 is 1,787,474. Preliminary data for Inpatient and day case activity delivered year to date October 2019 shows that 1,304,348 cases have been delivered against an expected activity level of 1,288,353. This is 1.2% above expected activity levels and 1.9% above 2018 activity levels.

In order to mitigate the impact of unscheduled care, which can also lead to cancellations in scheduled care, the HSE and NTPF are continuing to work to reduce waiting lists across specialties and improve access.

In this context the IPDC waiting list figures for the end of November show the number of patients waiting over 3 months on the Active IPDC list fell by 2,252 to 36,509 in the month. This was a reduction of 6.2%, which is the largest monthly percentage reduction in the number waiting more than three months since 2013. Also, the number of patients waiting more than 3 months has reduced by 37% since its peak in July 2017.

Yours sincerely,



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**Robert Kidd**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Acute Operations**