



Géaroibríochtaí,
Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Bóthar, Míleata, Baile Átha Cliath 8

Acute Operations,
The Dargan Building, Heuston South Quarter, Military Road, Dublin 8

26th of February 2019

Deputy Allan Kelly TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 7486/19 * To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital appointments cancelled in January 2017, 2018, and 2019 by week and hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Allan Kelly.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The cancellation of hospital appointments can occur due to a variety of reasons. The HSE does not collect detailed information centrally in relation to the reasons for cancellations, or to the level of detail requested in this PQ.

Annual Winter Plans identify the need to prioritise available capacity to support the increased demand for unscheduled care, i.e. emergency care and treatment, predominantly arising from increased admissions through our emergency departments. During the period of the Winter Plan and in January Hospitals reduce scheduling, as distinct from actually cancelling scheduled care, i.e. elective admissions, procedures and Outpatients. Current hospital information systems record various levels of activity but cannot record and report on activity that has not been scheduled to occur. In this context, there are no specific statistics available to respond to your question.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TD' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Trina Doran
General Manager
Acute Operations