



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

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

01st of February 2019

Deputy Allan Kelly TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 2469/19 * To ask the Minister for Health the number of operations cancelled in 2018 due to overcrowding by hospital.

PQ 2470/19 * To ask the Minister for Health the number of operations cancelled due to staff shortages by hospital.

PQ 2473/19 * To ask the Minister for Health the number of procedures cancelled due to unavailability of an ICU bed post-operatively by hospital.

PQ 2474/19 * To ask the Minister for Health the number of procedures cancelled due to unavailability of high dependency beds post-operatively by hospital.

- 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 operations or procedures can occur due to a variety of reasons. I have listed some examples 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.



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The annual service plan sets out the totality of Acute Hospitals' Inpatient and Day Case Activity to be delivered in the year. Within the total activity delivered patients are cancelled and are rescheduled on an on-going basis. Preliminary Inpatient and day case activity delivered in 2018 was 1,699,559. The expected in-patient and day case activity to be delivered in 2019 is 1,706,875.

In order to mitigate the impact of unscheduled care on scheduled care the HSE, NTPF and DOH are finalising the 2019 Scheduled Care Access Plan. The plan will set out HSE activity levels to reduce waiting lists across specialties and improve access. The Access Plan will also set out activity levels for the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) who, following an increase in funding in Budget 2019 to €75 million, will supply additionality to HSE activity. This will be arranged by both insourced and outsourced appointments and treatments to reduce waiting times experienced by patients.

The National Service Plan 2019 makes provision for growth in hospital capacity and this includes additional capacity as set out in the Winter Plan 2018/2019. The planned 202 beds for Winter 2019/20 are also set out.

The Critical Care Programme undertakes a bed census each year and this is the most accurate information available on critical care capacity. The number of adult critical care beds has increased from 237 in 2016 to 249 in 2018. Future critical care capacity requirements are contained within the Health Service Capacity Review (2018).

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

Trina Doran
General Manager
Acute Operations