



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

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

15th March 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 10487/19* To ask the Minister for Health the number of elective surgeries and procedures cancelled in each hospital nationally for each month in 2017 and 2018, by specialty; the reason for the cancellation in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 10488/19* To ask the Minister for Health the number of elective surgeries and procedures cancelled in each hospital nationally in each of the years 2011 to 2018, by speciality; the reason for the cancellation in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Louise O'Reilly.

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

The cancellation of elective surgeries and 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 reason and number of 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.

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.

In order to mitigate the impact of unscheduled care on scheduled care the HSE, NTPF and DOH have developed the 2019 Scheduled Care Access Plan. Improving access will remain a key priority in 2019, with funding to the NTPF increased to €75m.

The Plan sets out the following:

- The overall number of patients on Inpatient/Day case Waiting List (excluding GI scopes) will fall from just over 70,200 in December 2018 to under 60,000;
- The number of patients waiting for GI scopes is projected to fall from 18,847 at the end of 2018 to under 16,500;
- The number of patients waiting for a first Outpatient appointment will fall from over 516,000 at the end of 2018 to under 509,000.

A key element of this year's Plan is the stabilisation of the Outpatient Waiting List. Access to outpatient services remains a significant challenge. In 2019, over 3.3 million patients will attend a HSE outpatient clinic while the NTPF will fund an additional 40,000 first outpatient appointments.

Furthermore, through the work of the NTPF Centralised Validation Unit to assess the true demand for inpatient, day case and outpatient service it is projected that an additional 30,000 patients will be taken off the Waiting Lists in 2019.

Overall, in 2019, NTPF activity will aim to remove over 100,000 patients off our Hospital Waiting Lists through a combination of arranging treatments for 70,000 patients and through the activity of the Central Validation Unit.

Yours sincerely,

Trina Doran
General Manager
Acute Operations