



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

13/10/2021

Deputy David Cullinane,  
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- 48041/21\* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of surgeries for replacement joints which have been cancelled in the past three years due to a lack of replacement joints due to funding constraints***

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) have advised that they are not in a position to provide the requested cancellation data, as within their remit they do not collect and collate cancellation activity, namely; numbers treated /cancellations, etc.

In terms of cancellation data generally and in this instance, there are challenges arising with the data collected by the NTPF, not all hospitals return cancellation information thus impacting a true reflection of overall numbers. In addition, there are a number of caveats related to data validity and furnishing this data would not provide an accurate reflection of the cancellation status nationally. The NTPF have advised that releasing data that is heavily caveated is not ideal as these caveats are often missed or misunderstood, therefore in this instance the data is not available.

In order to respond input was sought from the National Clinical Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedics in relation to this question they advised that in relation Orthopaedic Scheduled Care, all scheduled inpatient procedures were cancelled in line with HSE guidance during each wave of the pandemic. This resulted in reduction

in activity volumes when compared with the same period for 2019. Considerations needed to be given to capacity, infection prevention and control measures for all healthcare settings. Funding for constraints for joints was not identified as an issue.

The NCPTOS have identified that currently within the public health system, there is capacity for more patients to have their scheduled orthopaedic surgery completed at dedicated centres such as Croom Orthopaedic Hospital, Co Limerick, and the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Cappagh, Dublin 11 and advocate for additional resources to be allocated to utilise this capacity.

Significant funding has been identified through the 2021 planning process to support access to care. The HSE is working with Hospital Groups to ensure that available additional funding in 2021 is targeted at access to care for patients where care delivery has been affected by the Pandemic. Additionally, work is underway for the 2022 estimates process which includes a specific focus on Orthopaedic patient care.

I trust that this response is satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Kidd', written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and stylized.

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