



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

25th July 2022

Deputy 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 37446/22 *to ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer-related appointments, by appointment type, cancelled in June 2022, for each hospital in tabular form; if he will request the information from each hospital as required; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane*

PQ 37413/22 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital appointments or procedures cancelled for the months of January to June 2022, broken by month and by hospital in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane*

PQ 37389/22 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of days of elective or planned procedures that were cancelled in hospitals from 2018 to date, broken down by month, by hospital and by procedure type; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - David Cullinane*

PQ 37433/22 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of scheduled care cancellations, by appointment type, in the month of June, by hospital group and hospital in tabular form; the cause of cancellations that is, hospital initiated, patient initiated et cetera; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane*

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

Please find data attached in relation to the Parliamentary Questions related to cancellations.

In terms of scheduled care i.e. outpatient appointments and elective/planned activities, Hospitals and Hospital Groups are working to develop a robust process for the collection and collation of data on cancellations. In this context, the data for April 2022, which relates to hospital initiated cancellations for planned elective activities is attached. Work is ongoing to

validate this data, however, it is acknowledged that the data presented may be subject to change. Any anomalies in the data are highlighted in the attached.

- **Definition of a hospital initiated inpatient/day case cancellation**

A hospital initiated cancellation of an inpatient/day case procedure is defined as the rescheduling of a patient To Come In (TCI) date by the hospital due to circumstances beyond its control.

- **Reasons for cancellation of scheduled care appointments**

Hospitals may have to cancel scheduled care appointments due to factors outside their control including the following;

- I. Increased ED attendances and admissions resulting in a requirement for surge inpatient bed capacity
- II. Unforeseen circumstances e.g. Weather events, infection outbreaks or industrial action.

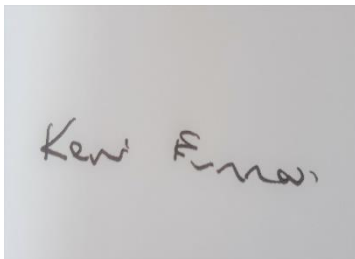
- **Rescheduling hospital appointments**

Hospitals endeavour to provide the patient with as much notice as possible in relation to the cancellation of elective appointments. The National Inpatient, Day Case, Planned Procedure (IDPP) waiting list management protocol 2017 issued by the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) requires hospitals to reschedule elective care appointments within six weeks of cancellation, subject to patient confirmation regarding their availability to attend. Clinical guidance must be sought when managing and rescheduling patients cancelled by the hospital. This is necessary to ensure that urgent and vulnerable patients are rescheduled appropriately. Patients cancelled by the hospital will not have their waiting list date reset.

Please be advised that there is no cancellations data for January 2022 as the tracking of Weekly Cancellations commenced in February 2022 with the first reporting date being 6th February 2022.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Finnan".

Kevin Finnan
General Manager Acute Operations