



24th May 2022

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**22595/22 To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancellations at each acute hospital for January, February, March and April in 2022; the number by quarter for 2019 and 2021, in tabular form; 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

In response to your query regarding *“the number of cancellations at each acute hospital for January, February, March and April in 2022; the number by quarter for 2019 and 2021”*, please see below.

In terms of unscheduled care i.e. non elective or unplanned/emergency procedures cancellation data is not applicable for this category as these procedures are not planned but are delivered at the time the patient presents in line with clinical priority.

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 endeavor 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.

I trust that this answers your question.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Trish King'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'K' at the end.

Trish King  
General Manager  
Acute Operations