

CC/MMcN/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

21st March 2023

Mr Michael McNamara TD,
Dàil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 11804/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of surgeries cancelled at Ennis Hospital in December 2022, January 2023 and February 2023; and if he will provide a breakdown of the surgical procedures cancelled. -Michael McNamara

Dear Deputy McNamara,

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.

Please see below for the number of surgeries cancelled at Ennis Hospital in December 2022, January 2023 and February 2023:

Week	Surgeries Cancelled
04/12/2022	0
11/12/2022	0
18/12/2022	0
25/12/2022	0
01/01/2023	0
08/01/2023	0
15/01/2023	36
22/01/2023	0
29/01/2023	38
05/02/2023	19
12/02/2023	13
19/02/2023	0
26/02/2023	23
Total	129


Reductions in scheduled care early in the new year have been a feature of our winter plan in recent years to allow us manage surges in medical patients associated with winter viruses and illness. Accordingly, there was no elective activity scheduled in our hospitals during the first two weeks of January.

However, this year's surge in demand for beds exceeded capacity to the extent that, as per our Escalation Plan, additional reductions in scheduled care were necessary, delaying the resumption of day surgery in Ennis Hospital, where beds on the day ward were used as surge capacity for medical inpatients.

Cancellations are a decision of last resort that no hospital manager wishes to make, but in the context of the levels of demand experienced for our services, and our well documented shortage of hospital beds, these decisions were necessary for ensuring our services remained open for the sickest patients who were most in need of care.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group