



Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine  
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan  
An Ceantar Theas  
An Bothar Mileata  
Cill Mhaighneann  
BÁC 8

28<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2.

Acute Operations  
Health Service Executive  
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building  
Heuston South Quarter  
Military Road  
Kilmainham  
Dublin 8.

**PQ12379/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital-initiated scheduled care cancellations, by appointment type, in each month of 2022 and in January and February 2023, by hospital group and hospital, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 12380/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer-related appointments and procedures which were cancelled in January and February 2023, by hospital, for adults and for children, in tabular form.**

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 relation to the collection of data associated with hospital cancellations for scheduled care, Hospitals and Hospital Groups working with the HSE in 2022 to develop a process for the collection and collation of data on cancellations. Data collection commenced in February 2022 and over the subsequent months became streamlined and now forms as part of a robust process that is in place for weekly collection of data associated with Hospital initiated cancellations.

The current information collected does not have details of the patient condition such as cancer related appointment. The following information has been provided:

- Hospital-initiated scheduled care cancellations from February 2022 to February 2023, by hospital group, hospital and by appointment type in tabular form.

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

A hospital-initiated cancellation of an outpatient or 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. It is important to note that the cancellations included in the report could represent in some cases patients who have been cancelled on more than one occasion.

**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.
- III. Sick leave which impacts on service being given at the planned time

**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.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish King', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**Trish King**  
**Acute Operations**