



**Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí**

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

**Office of the National Director Acute
Operations**

Unit 4a, The Dargan Building, Heuston
South Quarter, Military Road,
Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 NN9V

**www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)**

t 01 795 9971
e acute.operations@hse.ie

29th February 2024

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 7270/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer-related appointments and procedures which were cancelled for January for each year 2022-2024, inclusive, by hospital, for adults and for children, in tabular form.

PQ 7280/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital-initiated scheduled care cancellations, by appointment type, for January of each year 2022-2024, inclusive by hospital group and hospital, in tabular form.

PQ 7290/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital-initiated scheduled care cancellations, by appointment type, for each quarter of each year 2022-2023, inclusive, by hospital group and hospital, in tabular form.

PQ 7291/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer-related appointments and procedures which were cancelled for each quarter for each year 2022-2023, inclusive, 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 Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Response:

Hospitals and Hospital Groups working with the HSE worked in 2022 to develop a process for the collection and collation of data on scheduled care cancellations. Data collection commenced in February 2022 and over the subsequent months became streamlined and now forms as part of a process that is in place for weekly collection of data associated with Hospital initiated cancellations. Data collected is subject to ongoing validation and has been impacted by recent industrial action.



As the data collection process around cancellations commenced in Q1 2022, it was Q2 2022 before all sites were reporting cancellations and therefore the 12-month period in 2022 would not be reflective of a full year and as such should not be compared with 2023.

Furthermore, the current information collected does not cover specifically cancer-related appointments. The information does cover chemotherapy however this is for both cancer and non-cancer related treatments.

The following information has been provided:

- The number of hospital-initiated scheduled care cancellations, by appointment type, for January of each year 2022-2024, inclusive by hospital group and hospital, in tabular form.
- The number of hospital-initiated scheduled care cancellations, by appointment type, for each quarter for each year 2022-2024 (to date), inclusive by hospital group and hospital, in tabular form.

Additional context:

Our Acute Hospitals deliver c3.5 million outpatient appointments; c1.1 million daycase episodes of care; and over 600,000 inpatient episodes of care on an annual basis.

Management of patient scheduling and cancellations of planned activity is conducted in line with the protocols for outpatient and inpatient/day case, links below:

- <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/3/acutehospitals/patientcare/protocol-for-the-management-of-outpatient-services-and-guidance-documents/national-outpatient-waiting-list-management-protocol-2022.pdf>
- <https://www.ntpf.ie/home/pdf/National%20Waiting%20List%20Management%20Protocol.pdf>

Aligned with the protocols patients that are cancelled are rescheduled within 6 weeks/the next available appointment based on their clinical prioritisation, with urgent patients prioritised for access. Clinical guidance will also be sought when managing and rescheduling patients cancelled by the hospital. This is necessary to ensure that urgent and vulnerable patients are rescheduled appropriately.

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.



Reasons for cancellation of scheduled care appointments:

- 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/Staffing shortages can impact scheduled/planned activities.
- IV. Although new patients are scheduled within 6 weeks of their appointment, return patients are often scheduled months in advance and may have to be cancelled and rescheduled due to changes in service delivery model.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

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

Trish King
Acute Operations