

CC/MB/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

09th April 2024

Mr Martin Browne TD
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 12121/24

To ask the Minister for Health his views on the suspension of planned surgeries, procedures and appointments at the UL Hospitals Group to facilitate surge capacity at the constituent hospitals in the mid west; the measures to be introduced to perform those procedures at the earliest date possible; to provide data on the number of and type of cancelled surgeries and procedures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

There have been some deferrals of scheduled elective activity since the beginning of the year. This measure is taken when UHL is at its highest state of escalation in order to create surge capacity to care for medically unwell patients.

Postponement of scheduled elective activity is a decision of last resort that no hospital wishes to make, and UL Hospitals Group regrets the impact that these deferrals have on our patients. Affected patients are contacted by our staff and rescheduled at the earliest opportunity possible.

Decisions to defer scheduled activity are not made lightly, especially in the cases of patients who have already faced long waits for treatment. We apologise to affected patients for any distress or inconvenience caused.

Please see below the number of procedures that have been deferred since the beginning of the year by hospital site up to the 24th March 2024:

Hospital site	Number of cancellations
University Hospital Limerick	239
St John's Hospital	149
Nenagh Hospital	143
Ennis Hospital	27
Croom Orthopaedic Hospital	44
Total	602

Despite these deferrals, 2,333 procedures went ahead as planned. Please see below for a breakdown up to the 24th March 2024:

Hospital site	Number of procedures that took place
University Hospital Limerick	465
St John's Hospital	517
Nenagh Hospital	383
Ennis Hospital	363
Croom Orthopaedic Hospital	605
Total	2,333

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

Yours sincerely,



Professor Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group