

Executive Corridor  
Darlington Memorial Hospital  
Hollyhurst Road  
Darlington  
DL3 6HX  
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100  
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625  
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 11.18.35

Direct line: 01325 743700  
Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)

Email only

4th December 2018

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for your request for information received on 23 November 2018 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding elective surgery cancellations. Specifically you requested information as follows:

**1. How many elective surgery cancellations have there been in the Trust since:**

- **April 2017?** - (April 2017 to March 2018) 1,735
- **April 2018?** - (April 2018 to October 2018) 835

**2. Of those cancellations, what is the average number of cancellations per patient?**

Answer: Total 1.04 cancellations per patient for whole period

**3. Of all cancellations, how many patients have had:**

- **1 cancellation** 2,505 for whole period
- **2 cancellations** 61 for whole period
- **3 cancellations** 4 for whole period
- **4 cancellations** nil
- **In excess of 5 cancellations?** nil

**4. Which services have the highest number of patient cancellations?**

Answer: General Surgery procedures are the most frequently cancelled

**5. Which services have exceeded 3 cancellations per patient?**

Answer: None

**6. Does the Trust routinely cancel operations in January of every year?**

Answer: The Trust takes every reasonable step to avoid having to cancel patients after they have been given a date for their operation. This may mean scheduling lower volumes of surgery at the acute hospitals during this period as these hospitals are most affected by the increased presentation of acutely unwell patients in January.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive  
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust  
Darlington Memorial Hospital  
Hollyhurst Road  
Darlington  
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113  
Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

**Joanna Tyrrell**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**