

18 July 2024

Our Ref: RFI 58453

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Paediatric Elective Surgeries.**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above, which you requested on 2 May 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Surgery, Elective Care, Maternity & Paediatrics Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Degans
Information Governance Officer

Q1. The number of paediatric elective surgeries cancelled or postponed within the Trust between January 1 2020 and December 31 2023.

A1. Please see Table 1 for the number of paediatric elective surgeries cancelled within the Trust for the period 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2023.

Table 1

Year	Number of Cancelled Surgeries
2020	108
2021	21
2022	45
2023	90

Q2. The total cost of cancelling or postponing paediatric elective surgeries within the Trust between January 1 2020 and December 31 2023.

A2. The Trust do not calculate the cost of lost capacity relating to cancelled or postponed elective surgery, as it depends on a variety of factors as fixed costs associated with elective activity still apply and slots relating to cancelled or postponed procedures may be rebooked, therefore figures should be used with caution.

However, as a guide, the Northern Ireland average marginal cost of an Elective surgery for the most recent annual costing submission (22/23) is £1,938.