

Request title: Theatres (Community Hospitals)

Date of Response: 12th February 2016

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request and reply

1. For each community theatre, how many theatre sessions have been scheduled in 2015?

Theatre site	Number of planned lists
Community	2236

The Trust does not record information separately for each Community site, it is recorded as a whole and therefore it is not possible to provide a breakdown per site.

In order for the Trust to provide this level of detail, each of these 2236 lists would need to be manually checked in order to obtain the specific information that you request.

This process was undertaken in order to provide the level of detail in relation to question 2 below and this took just over 6 hours to check through 262 cancellations. Therefore, to check through 2236 planned lists to ascertain the details per site it would take far in excess of 18 hours which is the appropriate limit set by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The appropriate limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Consequently, the Trust is not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to retrieve the above information (see section 12(1)).

2. How many sessions in each have been cancelled in 2015?

Theatre site	Number of cancelled lists
Axminster	38
Exmouth	103
Sidmouth	82
Tiverton	126
TOTAL	349

3. For what reason have the sessions been cancelled? For example: Staff shortage; Equipment shortage; Cancelled by Consultant; Patients did not arrive.

1 list had to be cancelled due to staff skill mix, the other lists were cancelled due to unavailability of the surgeon, for example no replacement surgeon was available in times of annual leave or on occasions the surgeons have been needed back at the RD&E Wonford site.

4. What notice was given of cancellation?

The amount of notice given for a cancelled list varies from 6 weeks to 1 day before the list is scheduled to take place. However, this is not data that is recorded centrally.

5. How and where was staff re-deployed?

Many of the community staff are employed on annualised hours contracts which enable them to work as required to meet the service requirements.

However, if a list is cancelled, the expectation is that staff could be asked to undertake any of the following:

- Make their hours up on another occasion.
- Utilised within another Community Hospital theatre setting where there may be

staff shortages due to sickness or vacancies.

- Utilised within main theatres at RD&E Wonford site, Ophthalmology theatres at the RD&E Wonford site, or the day case theatres at the RD&E Heavitree site where there may be shortages due to vacancies or staff sickness.
- Utilised within pre-assessment clinics at the RD&E Wonford site.

Please note: On occasions where it has been necessary for staff to be allocated elsewhere, this is very often discussed and staff preference will be taken into account.

6. When staff were asked to change shift within 24 hours of their scheduled shift were they paid the unforeseen change payment

No payments have been claimed.