

FOI REF: 26/464

8th September 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne
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Further to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I now set out our answers to your specific questions, and any clarifications sought and provided, as follows:

There have been two periods this year when UKHSA has issued “amber” or “red” heat health alerts across much or all of England. These took place on the following dates:

- **22-28 May 2026**
- **18-27 June 2026**

Please provide me with the following information for this NHS trust, for the dates listed above:

- 1. How many elective surgeries were cancelled by hospitals during these periods? If available, please provide a list that includes:**
 - a. What each surgery was for.**
 - b. The reason given for each cancellation, if one was provided – including whether heat was a factor, if this is recorded.**

[Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-464 Response'.](#)

- 2. How many emergency surgeries were cancelled by hospitals during these periods? If available, please provide a list that includes:**
 - a. What each surgery was for.**
 - b. The reason given for each cancellation, if one was provided – including whether heat was a factor, if this is recorded.**

[Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-464 Response'.](#)

- 3. How many surgical operations that were already underway were disrupted or forced to stop due to heat during these periods? Please provide the reason why the surgery was disrupted or halted, if this information is available.**

[None.](#)

4. Please also indicate if any of these disruptions or cancellations detailed above resulted in medical complications and/or fatalities.

None.

I trust this information is helpful in its detail or explanation however, if you are dissatisfied with the response, then you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to seek an internal review, please write to the Freedom of Information Team at esh-tr.foi@nhs.net quoting the above FOI reference number, within 40 working days. Please note the Trust is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review after this time period.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
0300 131 4716
Core Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm

1. How many elective surgeries were cancelled by hospitals during these periods? If available, please provide a list that includes:

a. What each surgery was for.

Count of Unique Case Reference

Cancellation Timeframe

Operation Date Range	Treatment Function Name	0-3 days before surgery	4 to 7 days before surgery	8 to 14 days before surgery	15 to 28 days before surgery	29 to 42 days before surgery	43 or more days before surgery	Grand Total
22-28 May 2026	Ear Nose and Throat Service	2		5	1			8
	General Surgery Service	2		1	2			5
	Gynaecology Service	2	1	2		1		6
	Maxillofacial Surgery Service	1						1
	Obstetrics Service	6						6
	Ophthalmology Service	4	6	1	1		3	15
	Trauma and Orthopaedic Service	2			6			8
	Urology Service	8	2	3	12	4		29
22-28 May 2026 Total		27	9	12	22	5	3	78
18-27 June 2026	Breast Surgery Service	2		2				4
	Cardiology Service	1	1					2
	Ear Nose and Throat Service	4	2	3	1		1	11
	Gastroenterology Service		1	1				2
	General Surgery Service	11	3		3	1		18
	Gynaecology Service	8	1	1	3	2		15
	Maxillofacial Surgery Service	4	1		2	4		11
	Obstetrics Service	8						8
	Ophthalmology Service	20		3	2	2	3	30
	Trauma and Orthopaedic Service	17		7	4	4	1	33
	Urology Service	13	10	10	3			36
18-27 June 2026 Total		88	19	27	18	13	5	170
Grand Total		115	28	39	40	18	8	248

b. The reason given for each cancellation, if one was provided – including whether heat was a factor, if this is recorded.

Count of Unique Case Reference

Cancellation Timeframe

Operation Date Range	Cancellation Description	0-3 days before surgery	4 to 7 days before surgery	8 to 14 days before surgery	15 to 28 days before surgery	29 to 42 days before surgery	43 or more days before surgery	Grand Total
22-28 May 2026	Administrative Change - A To Come In (TCI) date has been provided without being passed fit by Pre-Operative Assessment	1	1	4	9	2		17
	Clinical Staff Unavailable - Surgeon	1	6		5			12
	Administrative Change - Patient brought forward		1	3	6	1	1	12
	Procedure No Longer Necessary	6			1			7
	Treatment/Surgery deferred	5		1				6
	Clinical Change to Operating List	2		2				4
	Acute medical condition - all other	3						3
	Pre-existing Medical condition	1		1	1			3
	Emergency Admission	2		1				3
	Administrative Change - Booked to incorrect Session						2	2
	Patient Deceased					2		2
	List Overrun - Other reason	1						1
	Clinical Staff Unavailable - Anaesthetic practitioner	1						1
	List Overrun - Complexity of procedures	1						1
	No Bed Available - General / Ward	1						1
	Unsuitable for Surgical Hub/Green site		1					1
	List Overrun - Booking error	1						1
	Clinical Staff Unavailable - Anaesthetist	1						1
22-28 May 2026 Total		27	9	12	22	5	3	78
18-27 June 2026	Clinical Change to Operating List	8	8	7				23
	Equipment Unavailable or failed	21		1				22
	Administrative Change - A To Come In (TCI) date has been provided without being passed fit by Pre-Operative Assessment	3	2	6	6	5		22
	Administrative Change - Patient brought forward		2	3	8	5	2	20
	Procedure No Longer Necessary	12	2	3		1	1	19
	Pre-existing Medical condition	6	2	2	2		1	13
	Administrative Change - Booked to incorrect Session	7		1			1	9
	Acute medical condition - all other	7		1				8
	Clinical Staff Unavailable - Anaesthetic practitioner	6						6
	Clinical Staff Unavailable - Anaesthetist	4	1					5
	Treatment/Surgery deferred	4						4
	Stand-by Patient	1			1	1		3
	List Overrun - Complexity of procedures	3						3
	Emergency Admission			2	1			3
	List Overrun - Other reason	2						2
	Unsuitable for Surgical Hub/Green site		1			1		2
	Undiagnosed Condition	1		1				2
	Inadequate Pre-assessment - Health problem not fully investigated	2						2
	Clinical Staff Unavailable - Surgeon		1					1
	Case Change – Moved to Another Theatre	1						1
18-27 June 2026 Total		88	19	27	18	13	5	170
Grand Total		115	28	39	40	18	8	248

2. How many emergency surgeries were cancelled by hospitals during these periods? If available, please provide a list that includes:

a. What each surgery was for.

Count of Unique Case Reference		Cancellation Timeframe	
Operation Date Range	Treatment Function Name	0-3 days before surgery	Grand Total
22-28 May 2026	General Surgery Service	4	4
	Trauma and Orthopaedic Service	7	7
	Urology Service	1	1
22-28 May 2026 Total		12	12
18-27 June 2026	Ear Nose and Throat Service	1	1
	General Surgery Service	8	8
	Obstetrics Service	4	4
	Trauma and Orthopaedic Service	5	5
	Urology Service	2	2
18-27 June 2026 Total		20	20
Grand Total		32	32

b. The reason given for each cancellation, if one was provided – including whether heat was a factor, if this is recorded.

Count of Unique Case Reference		Cancellation Timeframe	
Operation Date Range	Cancellation Description	0-3 days before surgery	Grand Total
22-28 May 2026	List Overrun - Other reason	5	5
	Procedure No Longer Necessary	2	2
	Equipment Unavailable or failed	2	2
	Treatment/Surgery deferred	1	1
	Administrative Change - A To Come In (TCI) date has been provided without being passed fit by Pre-Operative Assessment	1	1
	List Overrun - Complexity of procedures	1	1
22-28 May 2026 Total		12	12
18-27 June 2026	Treatment/Surgery deferred	4	4
	List Overrun - Booking error	4	4
	Procedure No Longer Necessary	3	3
	List Overrun - Other reason	3	3
	Case Change – Moved to Another Theatre	3	3
	Clinical Change to Operating List	1	1
	Emergency Admission	1	1
	List Overrun - Complexity of procedures	1	1
18-27 June 2026 Total		20	20
Grand Total		32	32