

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Hon. Member for Onchan, Ms Edge, to ask The Minister for Health and Social Care:

How many theatre sessions have been delivered since 1st April 2025; and what the monthly utilisation was broken down by the number of sessions performed against the mandate target.

Question W-202601-2060 published on 16 02 2026; Answer published on 26 02 2026.

The Minister for Health and Social Care (Ms Christian):

The table below sets out the number of theatre sessions delivered from 1 April 2025 to 31 January 2026, together with the number of planned and emergency operations undertaken, the average number of operations per session, and monthly theatre utilisation

Year	Month	Theatre Sessions	Operations Taken Place			Average Operations / Session	Utilisation	
			Elective Operations	Emergency Operations	Total		Target	Actual
2025	April	77	239	0	239	3.1	85.00%	82.50%
	May	73	177	0	177	2.4	85.00%	83.30%
	June	92	286	0	286	3.1	85.00%	82.20%
	July	117	354	0	354	3	85.00%	80.60%
	August	80	201	2	203	2.5	85.00%	80.30%
	September	110	282	1	283	2.6	85.00%	84.60%
	October	113	254	2	256	2.3	85.00%	79.70%
	November	104	305	2	307	3	85.00%	79.90%
	December	94	204	2	206	2.2	85.00%	77.90%
2026	January	108	288	1	289	2.7	85.00%	76.20%
Totals		968	2590	10	2600	2.7	85.00%	80.60%

Definition of columns within the above table:

- Theatre sessions – the number of 4-hour blocks of theatre time taking place each month. This number excludes the theatre sessions that are dedicated to emergency operations, as utilisation of these sessions can vary depending on emergency demand
- Operations Taken Place
 - Elective Operations – the number of pre-planned operations that have taken place each month
 - Emergency Operations – the number of emergency operations that have taken place each month.
- Utilisation % - this measures the amount of time when an operation is taking place within an operating theatre. For example, a delayed start of an operating list of 30 minutes, where the operating list is four hours long would reduce utilisation by 25%
 - Target – the Manx Care Mandate has determined that a target of 85% utilisation should be reached for all elective theatre lists

- Actual – this is the actual percentage utilisation of theatre lists for 10 months outlined in the above table

A total of 968 theatre sessions were delivered during this period, within which 2,600 operations were performed, giving an average of 2.7 operations per 4h session.

Monthly utilisation ranged from 76.2% to 84.6%, with an overall average of 80.6% across the reporting period. While significant theatre activity was delivered during this period, overall uncapped theatre utilisation remained below the current Mandate target of $\geq 85\%$. A underutilisation of theatre time can be attributed to a number of factors:

- Theatre time not utilised fully by Surgeon – all theatre lists are planned by each Surgical Team along with their Secretarial Team based on current waiting list and clinical priorities. All theatre lists are reviewed by the Theatre Scheduling Team at least two weeks prior to the list taking place. Any potential underutilisation of a theatre list is identified at the weekly Theatre Planning Meeting and the list is referred back to the Surgical Team to request more cases added. Where there is underutilisation of the list, utilisation will be reduced as the list will end before the planned finish time.
- Patient cancellations – occasionally, a patient will be cancelled either in advance or on the day due to being medically unfit to have the operation. This is mostly due to the patient being unwell which would mean to proceed would put the patient at unnecessary risk. If the cancellation is made in advance, attempts will be made by the Surgical Secretary to fill the theatre slot however if this is not possible, or if the cancellation is made on the day of surgery, this will impact utilisation.
- Hospital cancellations – hospital bed pressures occasionally result in patients being cancelled because of a lack of bed availability and can take place in advance of the operation or on the day of the operation. If there are cancellations due to lack of bed availability, this will impact utilisation. Other hospital-initiated cancellations include staff availability issues or equipment issues. The recent launch of the Elective Surgical Unit as well as positive recruitment into the Theatre, Surgery and Anaesthesia Departments will ensure that hospital-initiated cancellations are kept at a minimum.

Theatre utilisation has been on a downward trend from September 2025 to January 2026 due to a combination of factors including increased patient and hospital cancellations on the day and, during December and January, a reduction in utilisation due to the Christmas and New Year break, where traditionally theatres accommodate emergency and clinically urgent patients only.

The number of sessions delivered, % utilisation, and session cancellations are also reported through the monthly [Integrated Performance Report \(IPR\)](#).

It is important to note that Manx Care has recently updated its methodology for recording theatre sessions and utilisation, to better align with NHS standards. Under this revised approach, all-day theatre lists, which were previously counted as a single session, are now recorded as two separate

sessions (morning and afternoon). As a result, the figures presented may differ slightly from historic IPR data.