



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Baroness Merron
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State*

*39 Victoria Street
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Dear Noble Lords,

I want to thank you for your contributions to the oral parliamentary question on 30 July on NHS Blood and Transplant Service: Blood Stocks.

I am writing to provide additional clarity to some remarks I made during the debate. When responding to the question from the Noble Baroness, Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford, regarding whether the cyber-attack against Synnovis had resulted in a backlog of surgeries in the affected hospitals, I stated that “there has not been a negative effect on elective surgery; I think that is an important reassurance”. The answer I gave was in reference to the impact of the NHSBT Amber Alert on elective surgery which remains minimal at this time, as the national plan to conserve blood stocks does not call for elective surgery to be curtailed. I apologise for my misinterpretation of this question.

However, given that the focus of the Noble Baroness’s question, I would like to confirm that, as of 25 July 2024, 1,608 elective procedures have been postponed at King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust as a result of the cyber-attack against Synnovis, of which a significant proportion will be surgery. Trusts consider whether to reschedule procedures on a case-by-case basis depending on need and the ongoing impacts of the attack.

I hope the above response proves useful. I am copying this letter to all those who contributed and the editor of Hansard. I have deposited a copy of this letter in the library.

All good wishes,

BARONESS MERRON