

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
STORMONT CASTLE
BELFAST BT4 3ST

Tel. Belfast (0232) 63011

Mark Addison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

25. May 1988

Dear Mark,

at flap p 11 MSA

You copied to me your letter of 5 April to Flora Goldhill at DHSS, and subsequent related correspondence from the Welsh and Scottish Offices, about the provision of statistics on operations carried out in the NHS.

The latest published figures for operations in Northern Ireland relate to 1986, though provisional figures for 1987 are now available. The relevant information is extracted from routine quarterly returns on hospital services furnished to the Department of Health and Social Services by the four Health and Social Services Boards. Operations are categorised as major, intermediate and minor and I am advised that the categories are not strictly comparable with those of the other home countries because of differences in definition.

The introduction of revised aggregated returns from 1 April 1988, as part of our revision of data collection systems in the wake of Korner, means that from that date, the numbers of operations in Northern Ireland will be recorded by main specialty function. This will allow direct assimilation with other UK figures. The figures for 1988/89 should be available in the summer of 1989.

I am copying this reply to Flora Goldhill. I presume that officials from the Department of Health and Social Security will be in touch with their Northern Ireland counterparts to co-ordinate action.

Yours sincerely,
David Watkins.

JB 12209

D J WATKINS

NATIONAL HEALTH: Expenditure

Pt 12

