

Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí, Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens, Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8. D08 W2A8.

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12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Deputy Ryan, Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

PQ 50011/23 To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently waiting for an eye specialist/optician appointment in each CHO area, in tabular form; the reason there is a delay in such appointments being allocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (50011/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality services to all eligible service users. In 2023, there were 99,872 patients seen by HSE Primary Care Ophthalmology services. Primary Care Operations is focused on improving access to care in order to reduce waiting times for patients. This includes monitoring the waiting list on an on-going basis in the context of available resources.

Please find the attached appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the Ophthalmology waiting list for children in each CHO area, as at the end of February 2024 which is the latest data available at this time.

Appendix 1 – Ophthalmology Waitlist for Children as at the end of February 2024

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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Seán McArt **General Manager Primary Care** National Community Operations