



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Chief Operations Officer,
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Old Nurses Home,
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Tel: 091 893800

Deputy Pearse Doherty,
Leinster House,
Kildare St,
Dublin 2.

21st February 2024

PQ 47374/23 : To ask the Minister for Health the number of people on waiting lists for a dermatologist in the north west broken down into whether they have been waiting for 6-12, 12-18, 18-24 and over 24 months; how these figures compare with last years, in tabular form; if he is concerned about the fact that a consultant dermatologist has said in a letter to GPs that dermatology provision in the north west is on the brink of collapse and that they are only able to take on urgent cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pearse Doherty

Dear Deputy Doherty,

In response to your parliamentary query above I wish to outline the following response. The model for Dermatology care in the Northwest has always been a service based from Sligo University Hospital and this remains the case.

Historically this service was supplemented by a consultant from Northern Ireland who ran a weekly clinic in Letterkenny, funded by LUH. Regrettably this consultant is no longer in a position to continue running this weekly clinic. However, the consultant has agreed to continue a monthly clinic to provide clinical care for existing patients who are currently on treatment regimens or in surveillance programmes that require on-going monitoring.

Saolta has secured funding for two new consultant dermatology posts for the Northwest and LUH management have identified a requirement that the appointment of these posts would deliver two clinics per week in Letterkenny. Recruitment for these posts is currently underway and the posts are currently being advertised by PAs. The posts each have 10 hours commitment to LUH on a weekly basis.

Within the Saolta region, international recommended norms for consultant dermatologists per population would indicate that there is a requirement for five consultant dermatologist to serve the North West and 7-8 serving the remainder of our region.

Our Saolta Medicine MCAN (Managed Clinical and Academic Network) are currently completing a review of Dermatology services across the West North West Region and will be recommending the appointment of two consultant dermatologists dedicated to Letterkenny University Hospital.

Please see breakdown of waiting lists for dermatology in the North West as requested:

North West Dermatology OPD WL

Dermatology	WL Status	6-12Mths	12-18Mths	18-24Mths	24Mths +	Total
Dec-22	No Appt	702	518	328	758	2306
Dec-23	No Appt	568	465	456	331	1820

SUH Dermatology

Dermatology	WL Status	6-12Mths	12-18Mths	18-24Mths	24Mths +	Total
Dec-22	No Appt	419	333	239	395	1386
Dec-23	No Appt	363	307	269	311	1250

LUH Dermatology

Dermatology	WL Status	6-12Mths	12-18Mths	18-24Mths	24Mths +	Total
Dec-22	No Appt	283	185	89	363	920
Dec-23	No Appt	205	158	187	20	570

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



**Ann Cosgrove,
Chief Operations Officer,
Saolta University Health Care Group**