

12th March, 2024

Ms. Holly Cairns, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 9167/24

“To ask the Minister for Health for monthly details of the longest wait-time for each discipline and care group across each geographical area of the Cork/Kerry primary care services from January until December 2023, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Please see attached table which includes a breakdown of the longest wait-times waiting from January to December 2023.

Validation of waiting lists across a number of disciplines is ongoing and as part of this process, it is planned to review the pathways/processes for referral, assessment, etc. to ensure appropriateness of all referrals received.

Across all services, there is a notable increase in referrals across all disciplines, below is a brief synopsis of initiatives underway to support this increased demand:

- Text Message System implemented to decrease DNA/CNA in Q4 2023
- Standardisation re DNA process/procedures is underway and is being implemented across all disciplines
- Electronic assessment system is being scoped for 2-3 disciplines to reduce administrative burden and increase clinical time

The waiting list data attached gives the overall numeric situation, however, you will appreciate that this is nuanced with the fact that specialist skills are required for example in areas such as paediatrics, specific diagnosis, delivery of regional services, etc. It also should be noted that all waiting lists have a clinical prioritisation applied which encompasses a case mix of routine and complex cases to ensure that individuals with the highest clinical need are prioritised accordingly.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare