

18th July 2024

Deputy Ivana Bacik TD.,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
E: ivana.bacik@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 31030/24 - To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 253 of 27 June 2024, when he will lift staffing and recruitment constraints in order that all DEXA scanners will be made operation, full time; the number of persons awaiting an appointment for use of the DEXA scanner at a hospital (details supplied) in each month of this year; the average waiting time for an appointment for use of the DEXA scanner in each month of this year; and the longest waiting time for an appointment for use of the DEXA scanner in each month of this year.

Dear Deputy Bacik

I refer to the above parliamentary question which was sent to me for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that the GP DEXA service was suspended in St. Vincent's University Hospital in late 2022. Please see the number of patients waiting for a DEXA scan below per year from 2022 who were referred by their GP. The longest waiting patient on the 2022 list is from 21st July 2022. All patients for whom SVUH has received a request since the service was suspended have been sent a letter advising them of the Community Access to Diagnostics Scheme should their GP wish to refer them for a DEXA scan via that route.

Year	Number of patients
2022	345
2023	1001
2024	234

Due to challenges in staffing resources and current training of staff in prioritised areas where the Radiology Department can provide a service for the most clinically urgent patients, unfortunately St. Vincent's University Hospital cannot provide a timeline at present for the reopening of the DEXA scanner for GP referrals.

Yours sincerely



Cahal Flynn
Director of Operations