

25th November, 2024.

Mr. Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 45744/24

"To ask the Minister for Health the total number of people on the waiting list for ophthalmology in Cork; the average waiting time for an appointment, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Gould,

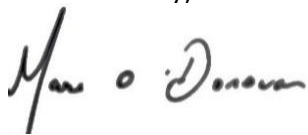
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Total No. of Paediatric Patients on Ophthalmology Waiting List Cork as at 31/10/24	1209
Average Waiting Time > 52 weeks	282
Average Waiting Time < 52 weeks	927

The HSE acknowledges that some children are currently waiting over a year for access to Paediatric Ophthalmology Services, primarily due to patients been triaged as lower priority. While these children await their appointments, many have undergone screening by a nurse to assess and re-prioritise those who may require higher-priority care. Significant progress has been made in reducing wait times by focusing on urgent cases, and we are now progressing another waitlist initiative to address these extended wait times for young children targeting this cohort. This initiative is expected to be completed by January 2025, after which all referrals will be managed within an optimal timeframe.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mari O'Donovan
Interim Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare