



Stiúirthóir Rochtana
Oifig an Stiúthóra Náisiúnta um Rochtain
agus Imeascadh

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
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Deputy Frankie Feighan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

15th November 2024

PQ 39318/24 - To ask the Minister for Health if he could re-examine the waiting times for a patient to be considered under the access to care scheme for urgent medical procedures, from the current 36 months' wait to the previously used three to six months' wait, especially for time critical procedures such as heart valve replacements; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Feighan,

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

Response:

The remaining Access to Care (ATC) funding for 2024 will continue to prioritise patients with extended waiting times for procedures. All regions have been allocated funding in line with the HSE's Pay and Numbers Strategy within which funding can be considered for all patients on waiting lists.

To date, the ATC-funded HSE Surgical Services tender has facilitated the treatment of 6,152 Inpatient and Day Case (IPDC) waiting list patients, at a cost of approximately €52 million.

The remaining available 2024 ATC funding will be specifically allocated to IPDC patients with waiting times exceeding three years.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila McGuinness
Director of Access