



Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

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14<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

Deputy Noel Grealish,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare St.,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: PQ 42166/24 - 'To ask the Minister for Health the current average waiting times for people waiting for inpatient appointments and for outpatient appointments, at Galway University Hospital and Portiuncula Hospital respectively, by speciality; and if he will make a statement on the matter.'**

Dear Deputy Grealish,

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. I apologise for the delay in responding to your PQ.

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

Through the HSE Acute Operations Access to Care programme, we secured non-recurring funding in 2024 to progress a number of insourcing initiatives across a number of different specialties. Clinical Insourcing (engaging outside contractors to deliver out-of-hours activity on our site(s)) continued to be a key tool for delivering waiting times improvements. We will also continue to engage with the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) and the Access to Care funded outsourcing programmes in order to improve access and facilitate delivery of our waiting times targets. We have already delivered a substantial number of initiatives across a range of specialties year to date.

The following are our four key targets to help reduce the number of patients waiting:

1. Total Waiting List
2. Reduction on patients waiting >3 years
3. % of patients meeting NSP Maximum Wait Time targets
4. Reduction in volume of patients breaching Sláintecare Access Targets

While short-term interventions have delivered improvements across our hospital sites waiting lists, lasting and meaningful reductions in the number of people waiting for care and associated waiting times, is dependent on an integrated and broader reform of the scheduled care system.



The RHA West and North West continue to focus on delivering capacity, reforming scheduled care, productivity and efficiency and enabling scheduled care.

Tables 1 and 2 attached provide details of the current average waiting times for people waiting for inpatient and outpatient appointments, by speciality, at GUH and PUH, respectively.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Cosgrove', written in a cursive style.

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**Ann Cosgrove,**  
**Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon,**  
**HSE West and North West.**

Encls. *Tables 1 & 2.*



**TABLE 1 – GALWAY UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS**

PQ 42166-24		
The current average waiting times for people waiting for inpatient appointments and for outpatient appointments, at Galway University Hospital, by speciality.		
SPECIALITY NAME:	Current Average Wait Times	
	In-Pt. Appts	OPD Appts
Anaesthetics	0-3 Months	0-3 Months
Cardiology	3-6 Months	3-6 Months
Cardio-Thoracic Surgery	3-6 Months	0-3 Months
Clinical Immunology	NA	3-6 Months
Dermatology	0-3 Months	15-18 Months
Endocrinology	NA	3-6 Months
Gastro-Enterology	0-3 Months	6-9 Months
General Surgery	9-12 Months	3-6 Months
Geriatric Medicine	NA	0-3 Months
Gynaecology	6-9 Months	3-6 Months
Haematology	NA	3-6 Months
Infectious Diseases	NA	0-3 Months
Maxillo-Facial	3-6 Months	3-6 Months
Nephrology	NA	6-9 Months
Neurology	9-12 Months	6-9 Months
Oncology	0-3 Months	0-3 Months
Ophthalmology	3-6 Months	15-18 Months
Orthopaedics	3-6 Months	9-12 Months
Otolaryngology (ENT)	9-12 Months	3-6 Months
Paediatrics	NA	3-6 Months
Pain Relief	6-9 Months	3-6 Months
Pathology	NA	12-15 Months
Plastic Surgery	9-12 Months	0-3 Months
Respiratory Medicine	15-18 Months	15-18 Months
Rheumatology	NA	6-9 Months
Urology	9-12 Months	9-12 Months
Vascular Surgery	3-6 Months	3-6 Months



**TABLE 2 – PORTIUNCULA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

PQ 42166-24		
The current average waiting times for people waiting for inpatient appointments and for outpatient appointments at Portiuncula Hospital, by speciality.		
SPECIALITY NAME:	Current Average Wait Times	
	In-Pt. Appts	OPD Appts
1. Gastro-Enterology	0.5 Months	2.8 Months
2. General Surgery	2.0 Months	1.4 Months
3. Gynaecology	6.0 Months	2.6 Months
4. Pain Relief	7.7 Months	3.1 Months
5. Plastic Surgery	1.4 Months	1.9 Months
6. Urology	1.7 Months	3.1 Months
7. Cardiology	NA	3.8 Months
8. Dermatology	NA	5.1 Months
9. Endocrinology	NA	3.4 Months
10. Geriatric Medicine	NA	6.0 Months
11. Nephrology	NA	1.8 Months
12. Orthopaedics	NA	3.6 Months
13. Paediatrics	NA	1.5 months
14. Respiratory Medicine	NA	7.9 Months