



Mr. Thomas P. Broughan, TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

General Manager Primary Care,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Ballymun Healthcare Facility,
Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

12th December 2019

PQ 50012/19 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in CHO Area 9 waiting for an ophthalmology appointment in primary care as of 25 November 2019; the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 9, 9 to 12 and over 12 months, and in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Thomas P. Broughan

Dear Deputy Broughan,

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 have examined the matter and provided the figures requested in tabular form.

CHO - Dublin North City and County Ophthalmology Waiting List				
Wait 0-12 weeks	Wait 12-26 weeks	Wait 26-39 weeks	Wait 39-52 weeks	Wait over 52 weeks
416	311	395	453	1,148

CHO Dublin North City and County (DNCC) Ophthalmology Services are provided for children up to the age of 12 years in the Community Eye Clinic, Grangegorman Primary Care Centre.

Following the release of “Review of Primary Care Eye Services Review Group Report” the management and staff of Ophthalmology services in DNCC continue to implement the recommendations contained therein. These recommendations are wide ranging and comprehensive with the overall aim being to provide improved, cohesive, streamlined ophthalmology services to service users.

CHO DNCC, along with Children’s Health Ireland at Temple Street Hospital, developed a Joint Governance Group to review the processes and best practice procedures across the two sites. This enabled Children’s Health Ireland at Temple Street to focus on surgical activity, complex referrals and enhance the utilisation of the Medical Ophthalmologists in the community.

With the establishment of the Joint Governance Group, the following advances have been made toward improving the process and reducing waiting lists;

- Staff numbers increased working across both sites including: Basic Orthoptist, Optometrists, Senior Orthoptist
- Children over the age of 8 years who no longer require medical follow up discharged to their own local Optometrist – once agreement on this discharge is discussed and agreed with parent

- “COOL Clinic” (Combined Orthoptic & Optometry Led service) were developed where patients who previously had to wait to see the Consultant for refractions & examinations can now be seen in these clinics reducing the numbers on the waiting list
- Policies, procedures and guidelines were reviewed and joint PPG’s were streamlined and implemented across both sites
- Validation exercises on the waiting lists are being carried out on a regular basis in the Community Eye Clinic
- A pilot project was run in conjunction with the Public Health Nursing School Vision Teams, during the summer of 2019 where children from the waiting list (longest waiters) were re-screened by the team in their local Health Centre/Primary Care Centre. This reduced the waiting list by approximately 1,000 children

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Forde
General Manager
Primary Care