

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
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18th February, 2019

Mr John Brassil, T.D.,
 Dáil Eireann
 Dublin 2

PQ ref 5287/19

“To ask the Minister for Health the average wait time in CHO area 4 for ophthalmology assessment; the average wait time assessment for ophthalmology day case appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Brassil,

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.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Community Ophthalmology clinics are provided in North Cork, Cork City (Grattan Street), West Cork and Kerry. The service is available to Children in all clinics and to both Adults and Children in Kerry. Referrals are accepted from GPs, Public Health Nurses (PHNs), the School PHNs, Area Medical Officers and Optometrists.

The table below lists the total numbers of clients waiting and waiting times for Ophthalmology assessment.

Waiting time	Totals waiting (31.12.'19)	Comment
No. of Ophthalmology patients on assessment waiting list 0-12 weeks	322	
No. of Ophthalmology patients on assessment waiting list > 12 weeks < 26 weeks	190	
No. of Ophthalmology patients on assessment waiting list > 26 weeks < 39 weeks	211	
No. of Ophthalmology patients on assessment waiting list > 39 weeks < 52 weeks	293	
No. of Ophthalmology patients on assessment waiting list > 52 weeks	2425	The Majority of this WL is in Cork City.
Totals on WL	3441	

Please note there is a triage system in place whereby Urgent patients/Priority One patients are seen first and within a two month timeframe. Therefore the majority of patients awaiting assessment are triaged as routine.

Funding for a local waiting list initiative for Cork City was secured from local budget in the latter part of 2018, recruitment for additional posts has commenced and additional clients are now being seen as a result of this initiative.

Further funding was sought under the 2019 Service planning process to reduce the waiting lists and waiting times in line with the National Primary Care Eye Services Review report (2017) but no further funding has been received in 2019 to date.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Majella Daly".

Majella Daly
A/Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare