



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



National Services
Dr Steeven's Hospital
Dublin 8

29th January 2019

Deputy Michael Harty
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 2135/19

*** To ask the Minister for Health the additional diagnostic investigations that have been made available to general practitioners as outlined in the winter plan 2018 to 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Harty

- **Michael Harty**

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 the following outlines the position.

The HSE Winter Plan 2018/2019 proposed increasing diagnostic access to GPs for acute cases, to help reduce emergency admissions. The Winter Plan targeted nine hospital sites, along with their associated Community HealthCare Organisations (CHO) with a particular focus on a four week period, from 17th December 2018 to 13th January 2019 – subsequently extended for a further two weeks.

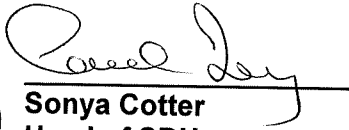
The targeted sites and CHOs were asked to submit details of proposed measures which would positively impact their performance during the Winter period. The targeted sites were Tallaght University Hospital, St. Vincent's University Hospital, the Mater Hospital, Galway University Hospital, Cork University Hospital, University Hospital Limerick, Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore, Waterford University Hospital and Naas General Hospital.

The following table details the number of additional GP accessed diagnostics appointments funded under the Winter Plan as identified as an enhanced measure by sites:

Site	Details of GP Accessed Additional Diagnostics
Cork University Hospital	Community diagnostics – direct GP access for MRI for musculoskeletal conditions / headaches - Target 10 patients per week
Waterford University Hospital	Community diagnostics – direct GP access for Ultrasounds - Target 100 patients per week
St Vincent's University Hospital	GP access for ultrasound - Target of 125 patients over the four week period.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Cotter', written over a horizontal line.

GA

Sonya Cotter
Head of SDU
National Services