



General Manager's Office
University Hospital Waterford,
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital, Kilkenny
South/South West Hospital Group
Email: uhwpg@hse.ie

27th March 2019

Mary Butler TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 14404 To ask the Minister for Health his plans to deal with the extensive outpatient orthopaedic waiting list at University Hospital Waterford of which 1,655 are waiting in excess of 18 months

Dear Deputy Butler

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.

UHW currently has in excess of 6600 patients on its outpatient waiting list as of 22nd March 2019, with 1665 patients waiting longer than 18 months. Of the 1665 patients waiting in excess of 18 months, 87 have appointments scheduled in the next 6 weeks.

In 2018, UHW ran a series of extra clinics in the evening (twilight clinics) to try to deal with some of the excessive waiting lists for Orthopaedics. This allowed an extra 300 patients to be seen and either have surgery or be discharged back to the care of the GP.

Ongoing, the Orthopaedic outpatient waiting list will be validated by the NTPF to see if patients waiting longer than 6 months still require treatment.

The MSK triage service was established in Waterford in May 2012 as part of a national initiative to reduce orthopaedic and rheumatology waiting lists and reduce time to assessment for patients. UHW currently has 3 MSK Physio posts (1 awaiting filling with NRS) that work with the Team to review patients and either treat or discharge back to the GP. The service has been developed and expanded to include a widening of the selection criteria and therefore increased the numbers of suitable patients from the waiting list to be seen in MSK triage.

MSK in conjunction with the consultant body have also developed an injection service and a pilot rapid access Knee pathway for patients with advanced Knee Osteoarthritis.

An additional Clinical Specialist Physio post has been approved for UHW, this will bring the MSK WTE to 3.5 as this person will be utilised for Trauma Assessment Clinic and MSK which will assist in managing the waiting lists.

I trust the above is satisfactory but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Grace Rothwell
General Manager
University Hospital Waterford
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital