



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

1st May 2019

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

PQ 18832 To ask the Minister for Health if the lack of ENT services in the south-east specifically in University Hospital Waterford which has waiting lists of 24 to 36 months for initial appointments will be investigated; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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.

In an effort to reduce patient waiting times for the longest waiters on the ENT Outpatient Waiting List, University Hospital Waterford has an in-house solution in place, supported with NTPF funding and provides for a locum ENT Consultant to focus on reducing patient waiting times. This is the current plan for ENT Services in University Hospital Waterford. For 2019, the plan with ENT Services for both in-patients and out-patients includes approval for 800 long waiter out-patients. It is to be noted that ENT services receives a high number of new referrals on a monthly basis with an average of 300 referrals per month.

Additionally for patients requiring hearing tests (Audiology) a combination of in-house and external provider initiatives are in place.

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