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20th December 2019

Re. **PQ 46313/19** *To ask the Minister for Health the wait times for prostate brachytherapy nationally in each centre of excellence by hospital and waiting time; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 46314/19 *To ask the Minister for Health the wait times for prostate brachytherapy nationally in each centre of excellence from 1 January to 31 October 2019, by hospital and month; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 46315/19 *To ask the Minister for Health the wait times for prostate brachytherapy nationally in each centre of excellence for 2018, by hospital and month; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Moynihan

In response to your PQs Ref 46313/19; 46314/19; PQ 46315/19, please find below in tabular form the wait times for prostate brachytherapy for 2018 and 2019 for each of the cancer centres which provide this service i.e. St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network (SLRON) covering St Luke's, St James's and Beaumont Hospitals; Galway University Hospital (GUH); and Cork University Hospital (CUH)

We can provide you with detail of the reasons for the delays if you require them

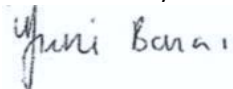
St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network (SLRON)		
2018 – Brachytherapy cases	2019 – Brachytherapy cases	Wait times
17 cases	26 cases	Approx 6 weeks – procedure prep time – depending on clinical prioritisation

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Galway University Hospital (GUH)			
2018 – Brachytherapy cases	Wait times	2019 – Brachytherapy cases	Wait times
59 cases	Medium wait time 30 days Longer waits occurred in January, June July and December when number of gynaecological cases increased and increased referrals.	48 cases	Medium wait time 41 days Currently there is an extended wait time of 120-day wait due to increased number of patients requiring HDR/triple therapy for prostate cancer and gynaecological cases. (these cases require full anaesthetic and are more complex procedures).

Cork University Hospital			
2018 – Brachytherapy cases	Wait times	2019 – Brachytherapy cases	Wait times
2018 Prostate seed implant cases = 102	Average Wait time - 51 Days 37 patients were > 60 Days Impact of Gynae Brachy cases, these cases are under tighter time constraints as the brachy treatment needs to coincide with external beam dates for enhanced recovery	2019 Prostate seed implant cases = 57	Average Wait time - 82 Days 23 patients were > 60 Days Reduction in Clinican numbers providing this specialist service

Yours sincerely



Fiona Bonas
Interim National Director
National Cancer Control Programme