

**General Manager's Office
Sligo University Hospital
The Mall
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F91 H684
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**Deputy Marc MacSharry, TD,
Dail Eireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2**

18th October 2019

PQ 41229/19 : To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the large increase in the numbers waiting more than 18 months for an outpatient appointment in Sligo University Hospital since May 2016

Dear Deputy MacSharry,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Public Representation. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

In October 2016 the number of patients with no appointments, waiting over 18 months was 53.

At that time, there were a number of initiatives in place including :

- Consultant Urologist from GUH doing extra clinics in SUH
- Extra Orthopaedic OPD Clinics

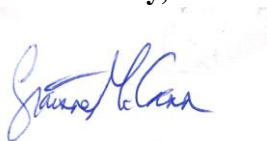
In October 2017, the number of patients waiting over 18 months was 511. When extra clinics are run, this can lead to an increase in Review patients. The clinics then become overbooked and there is reduced capacity to see new patients. The extra ENT and Urology clinics had ceased in 2017.

In October 2018, the number of patients waiting over 18 months with no appointment was 1168 and in October 2019 this increased to 2031.

Overall, the issue relates to the number of referrals in the outpatient department increasing annually and the challenge in keeping up with this demand.

I trust that this addresses your query.

Yours sincerely,



**Grainne McCann,
General Manager**

Mission Statement

Sligo University Hospital is committed to the delivery of a high quality, patient centred service in a safe, equitable and efficient manner. We recognise and value the contribution of each staff member and endeavour to support them in their ongoing development.

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