



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Chief Operating Officer,
Saolta University Health Care Group,
Old Nurses Home,
Newcastle Road,
Galway University Hospital,

8th January 2021

Catherine Connolly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ42334/20 To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the current waiting times for MRI services in CHO area 2; the discussions he has had with the HSE with regard securing additional MRI facilities to meet the ongoing need in CHO area 2; the number of adults and children, respectively currently on the waiting list for an MRI in CHO area 2; the number of adults and children, respectively that have been on MRI waiting lists in CHO area 2 for three, six, nine, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively in tabular form; the number of MRI machines operational in CHO area 2; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Catherine Connolly

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question/Public Representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Galway University Hospitals

There are two MRI scanners in Galway University Hospitals. The second scanner, under a managed service contract, opened on the 21st December 2020. The second scanner will help improve patient flow and the out-patient waiting list.

GUH also have a service level agreement with an external imaging centre who provide access to scans that cannot be performed on the original scanner due to old technology. This centre also provides a service for in-patients in Merlin Park University Hospital.

The below table outlines the number of adults and children, respectively that have been on MRI waiting lists in Galway University Hospital for three, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively:

Waiting Times MRI – Galway University Hospital								
Waiting time in months	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	12-18	18-24	>24	Total
Adult (16 and over)	887	645	262	742	1209	48	0	3793
Child (under 16)	45	12	7	10	14	28	0	116

Please note that 76 patients on the children’s waiting list require general anaesthetic for their scan.

Portiuncula University Hospital

Portiuncula has a contracted MRI service onsite and does not have its own dedicated MRI.

The below table outlines the number of adults and children, respectively that have been on MRI waiting lists in Portiuncula University Hospital for three, 6, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively:

Waiting Times MRI - Portiuncula University Hospital							
Waiting time in months	0-3	3-6	6-12	12-18	18-24	>24	Total
Adult (16 and over)	344	58	32	58	26	0	518
Child (under 16)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

PUH do not capture the 6-9 month figures. This data is extracted from the national NIMIS system in PUH according to the requirements for submission to the NTPF.

Mayo University Hospital

There is one MRI scanner in Co. Mayo based in Mayo University Hospital, Castlebar. This scanner was provided with the proceeds of community funding raising activity approximately 10 years ago. This unit is HSE staffed & provides all MRI services in Co. Mayo. Referrals are accepted from acute and community referral sources. A business case for a Primary Care based MRI Unit has been submitted as part of the integrated care model. Current activity levels and referrals from Primary Care would support such a service for Mayo and other CHO2 counties.

The below table outlines the number of adults and children, respectively that have been on MRI waiting lists in Mayo University Hospital for three, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively:

Waiting Times MRI - Mayo University Hospital								
Waiting time in months	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	12-18	18-24	>24	Total
Adult (16 and over)	340	117	18	58	64	9	1	607
Child (under 16)	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Ann Cosgrove,
Chief Operations Officer,
Saolta University Health Care Group