



Paulin Tully TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

21st December 2020

PQ 42367/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting time for a child to receive an appointment with an ophthalmologist; the average waiting time between receiving the appointment and being examined by an ophthalmologist; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pauline Tully”

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 42367/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE have developed a formal programme of work under the governance of the Chief Clinical Officer and Chief Operations Officer namely the Continuity of System Wide Healthcare Services Steering Group. The focus is to plan the recommencement of the delivery of Non-COVID Services to address ongoing clinical demands while maintaining capacity for COVID-19 rapid response.

A date for the full resumption of routine services has not been set but the preparatory work in terms of infrastructure readiness to ensure a clean and safe environment is underway. Every effort will be made to restore all Non-COVID services as soon as possible in the context of “A safe return to health services – restoring services in a Covid Environment” and public health guidance as it evolves through implementation of the Governments “Resilience and Recovery 2020 – 2021: Plan for Living with Covid-19”.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic of level of service continued to be provided for those adult and paediatric referrals to ophthalmology services for those referrals which were considered to be a priority.

The HSE does not report average waiting times for this service. The latest available waiting list data is at the end of October 2020. Please see attached waiting list;

- Appendix 1 – Ophthalmology – Number of patients aged under 18 years old waiting for treatment at October 2020.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TJ Dunford', written on a light-colored background.

TJ Dunford

Interim Head of Primary Care Operations/AND.
Community Operations.