

CC/COS/MC

Email: [pgmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pgmidwestacute@hse.ie)

04<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Mr Christopher O'Sullivan TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 44170/20

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of referrals received by the dedicated cataract clinic in Nenagh, County Tipperary for patients living in west County Cork during 2019 and to date in 2020; if the HSE encouraged medical professionals in counties Cork and Kerry to avail of this service; the approximate time a patient will have to wait for treatments; the measures that have been agreed in the national service plan to improve waiting times for persons requiring eye procedures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Christopher O'Sullivan**

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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.

The total number of patients from Cork and Kerry referred to University Hospital Limerick and Nenagh Hospital for cataracts between 2019 and 2020 was 172. Of these patients, 110 of them were listed for cataract surgery in Nenagh. The majority of these patients have been seen and it is anticipated that the remaining patients will be seen by the end of February 2021.

A dedicated cataract surgery service operates in Nenagh Hospital four days per week, with potential to extend this to a five day a week service. This dedicated cataract service has made a significant improvement to the wait times for all UL Hospital Group patients by allowing greater access to theatre and thus reducing wait times. It allows non complex day case cataracts to be scheduled in Nenagh Hospital and the complex cataract and other eye surgeries to be scheduled in University Hospital Limerick.

I trust this clarifies the position. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



**Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**