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11<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Deputy Patrick Costello T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
E: [patrick.costello@oireachtas.ie](mailto:patrick.costello@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: PQ 20036/20 – National Gender Service, St Columcille's Hospital**

**“To ask the Minister for Health his plans to address the years long waiting lists for assessment and treatment at the National Gender Service in Loughlinstown, County Dublin”**

Dear Deputy Costello,

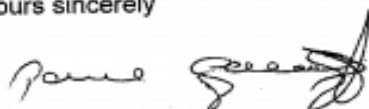
I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on waiting lists in the National Gender Service, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that Waiting lists at the National Gender Service have increased over the last number of years. This is in the context of a significant increase in the number of referrals received per annum without a concomitant increase in staffing/clinical capacity.

Last year, funding was made available to the National Gender Service for recruitment of new staff to increase clinical capacity. Most of the funded positions have been recruited to, and recruitment is ongoing to fill all vacancies. Presuming that referrals rates stabilise, this will result in a reduction in waiting times in the medium term. It is recognised that additional funding may be needed if referrals rates continue to increase

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher  
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery