



General Manager's Office
University Hospital Waterford,
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital, Kilkenny
South/South West Hospital Group
Email: uhwpq@hse.ie

18th June 2020

Ms Mary Butler TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 11491 - To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the reopening of podiatry services including face-to-face clinics in University Hospital Waterford; a definitive timeline for the reopening of face-to-face services to include potential capacity restrictions for clinics as currently envisaged by his Department and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Butler

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

With the arrival of COVID 19, the Podiatry Outpatient Services in both Acute and Community settings were suspended. Throughout this period, patients in crisis with active foot disease continued to have access to vascular and orthopaedic surgery specialists, if clinically warranted.

The Podiatry Service is currently preparing to safely re-open. As with other hospital outpatient services, the necessary processes are being put in place to ensure that patients and staff are able to safely interact without risk of transmission. Once approved by the Hospital's Crisis Management Team, the podiatry service will be able to re-open, albeit at a reduced capacity. The use of telemedicine has been helpful in supporting patients through this period.

I trust the above is satisfactory but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Rothwell
General Manager
University Hospital Waterford
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital