



11th March 2020

Deputy James Browne
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 3631/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for an ophthalmology appointment in primary care at the end of February 2020 or the latest date available; and the numbers waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks

-James Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

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

Ophthalmology is one of a range of multi-disciplinary services provided through Primary Care in Community Healthcare Organisations. Eye care in Ireland encompasses a range of services including HSE directly provided services and contracted primary care services. HSE directly provided services includes vision surveillance and screening at birth, preschool and primary school in addition to assessment, diagnosis and treatment of visual impairment and other ocular pathologies in adults and children. The latter services are provided by Primary Eye Care/Ophthalmology teams comprised of a number of eye care specialists.

Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting list for Ophthalmology in community services as of January 2020. Please note that February waiting list data as requested will not be generated until the end of March.

Please note that where there is a zero in a particular field in most instances this means there is nobody on the waiting list for the particular LHO / period of time waiting. It is important to note that the overall total in the attachments represents the entirety of the waiting lists. The HSE is working to ensure timely access to children and adults requiring ophthalmology services, and to reduce long waiting times for this important service.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality ophthalmology services to all eligible service users. In 2019 there were 99,884 attendances at HSE community ophthalmology clinics.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,



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Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations