



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

1st December 2020

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

PQ 36418/20: To ask the Minister for Health his views on a matter raised in correspondence by a person (*details supplied); the situation regarding access to and availability of gastric bypass surgery; the number of persons on waiting lists for surgery for morbid obesity by wait times on a six monthly basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**Details Supplied:*

I am in need of a gastric bypass. There is a lot of Irish citizens that need same surgery, which isn't available for them. I have to wait 4 years to have it in Ireland or do the treatment abroad scheme, which I will do but my consultant is against as I have to many complications. It is absolutely ridiculous that morbidly obesity surgery is not available in the south of the country, publicly. To have it publicly a person has to go to Dublin or Galway and wait 4 years.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 Government's Healthy Weight for Ireland: Obesity Policy and Action Plan sets out a 10-step multi-sectoral action plan to address one of the biggest public health challenges in Ireland, this action plan identified the requirement for access to Bariatric services to be strengthened so as to build a holistic and integrated system that can meet the growing needs across the population.

The appointment of clinical leadership for Obesity is a key action for the HSE under the Policy. The HSE established the Healthy Eating Active Living Policy Priority Programme in late 2016, and in 2017 the National Obesity Management Programme was set up by the HSE Health & Wellbeing Division.

The primary objective of the HSE Obesity Management Programme is to improve access to services and quality of care for overweight people in Ireland. This will be achieved by developing integrated models of care that strengthen prevention, identification, early intervention and treatment for overweight and obesity across primary care and acute services for both children and adults.

The following data represents the current waiting times for Bariatric Surgery

Table a.

Bariatric Surgery Waiting List (6 month intervals)									
0-6	6-12	12-18	18-24	24-30	30-36	36-42	42-48	48+	Total
20	30	35	25	25	35	29	16	30	245

Source: NTPF Data 29/10/2020

The data below represents surgical activity (principle procedure) from 2018 and 2019 from ACHI procedure block 0889 Procedures for Obesity, details of this procedure block are provided in appendix I. The 2020 file is not included as this is provisional and subject to change. For reasons of confidentiality the HPO suppress figures of between 1 and 5, these have been suppressed in the attached.

Table b. Discharges with a principal procedure from block 889 Procedures for Obesity* reported to HIPE: 2018-2019 by hospital group

Hospital Group	2018	2019
Ireland East Hospital Group	102	100
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	10	10
RCSI Hospital Group	~	7
South Southwest Hospital Group	*	*
UL Hospital Group	0	~
Saolta Hospital Group	46	28
Total	169	154

Source: HPO

As part of the 2021 HSE Access to Care Plan, development plans have been put forward for expansion of Bariatric services in St Vincent's Hospital and St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown. The HSE will work with the Ireland East Hospital Group on this service development in 2021, which is aimed at supporting additional Medical, Surgical and Multidisciplinary patient care.

I trust this answer your question.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Kidd
Assistant National Director
Acute Operations

Appendix I.

*Procedures included in Procedure Block 889 Procedures for Obesity:	
14215-01	Adjustment of gastric band reservoir
30511-02	Laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding [LAGB]
30511-03	Laparoscopic nonadjustable gastric banding [LNGB]
30511-04	Adjustable gastric banding [AGB]
30511-05	Nonadjustable gastric banding [NGB]
30511-06	Laparoscopic gastroplasty
30511-07	Endoscopic gastroplasty
30511-08	Gastroplasty
30511-09	Laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy [LSG]
30511-10	Sleeve gastrectomy [SG]
30512-00	Gastric bypass
30512-01	Laparoscopic biliopancreatic diversion [LBPD]
30512-02	Biliopancreatic diversion [BPD]
30512-03	Laparoscopic gastric bypass
30514-01	Revision procedure for obesity
31441-00	Revision of gastric band reservoir
31441-01	Removal of gastric band reservoir
90940-00	Duodenal-jejunal bypass [DJ bypass]
90941-00	Ileal interposition
90942-00	Removal of gastric band
90942-01	Laparoscopic removal of gastric band
90942-02	Endoscopic removal of gastric band
90943-00	Other procedures for obesity
90943-01	Other laparoscopic procedures for obesity
90943-02	Other endoscopic procedures for obesity
90950-00	Insertion of gastric balloon
90950-01	Removal of gastric balloon