



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

10th May 2021

Deputy Denis Naughten
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 21411 /21* To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting an urgent general practitioner referral x-ray in each acute hospital; the waiting time for such an x-ray in each acute hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denis Naughten

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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.

Response

Similar to other elective services in response to the in response of the government restrictions associated with COVID 19, access to diagnostics in acute settings have been impacted. The clinical programme for Radiology has advised that key areas impacted were as follows:

- Out-patient CT, MRI and US vetted as routine
- Out-patient nuclear medicine studies vetted as routine
- GP requested US/CT/MRI vetted as routine
- DEXA scans

While Radiological services have resumed guidelines regarding social distancing and infection control continue to impact on overall service capacity.

In response to your specific query, the HSE do not routinely collect information on x-ray waiting lists in Acute Hospitals. A project is underway between the HSE and the NTPF to progress the collection of waiting list data for CT, MRI and Ultrasound on a quarterly basis. Data is being collected from all sites nationally at this point however it is subject to on-going validation and as such this data is not published at this time. The HSE are in discussions with the Department of Health to progress this project and expand to all modalities and to progress with monthly reporting of validated information.

Considerable work is underway to support and enhance capacity for diagnostic access including utilization of external providers where appropriate, for example, through Safety Net Agreements with Private Hospitals. The NTPF are also providing additional diagnostic support through expansion of existing commissioning processes. In addition, HSE are commencing work around expansion of diagnostic services currently provided in the community which will also serve to enhance direct access for GP's and reduction of referrals to acute services.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Kidd', written in a cursive style.

Robert Kidd
Assistant National Director
Acute Operations