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Seán Crowe TD Sinn Féin Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2 e. <u>sean.crowe@oireachtas.ie</u>

5th January 2021

Re. <u>PQ 62614/21</u>: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that are currently overdue their annual BreastHealth mammogram post-treatment for breast cancer; and the number of those have been waiting longer than six months.

Dear Deputy Crowe

The National Cancer Control Programme has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above PQ.

Throughout the pandemic, services have been prioritised for the urgent assessment and diagnosis of those with signs or symptoms of possible cancer, including breast cancer. This includes the development of a new symptom in anyone with a previous history of cancer.

Routine surveillance mammograms have been affected but the extent of this has been minimised through the use of extended working days/working weeks. The NCCP has worked to support hospitals implementing measures in response. Data is not available on the overall numbers of patients waiting, by length of time or indication.

Note that any patient with a history of breast cancer who is concerned about a new symptom should arrange to be checked by their doctor, no matter how recently they had a surveillance mammogram.

Yours sincerely

Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide National Director National Cancer Control Programme