



Sorcha Clarke TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

18th February 2021

PQ 6411/21 & PQ 6409/21

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions (Reference 6411/21 & 6409/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

PQ 6411/21 - "To ask the Minister for Health the input surgeons have in the decision-making process of prioritising those suffering from hearing loss for bone anchor hearing aids."

There are currently six acute hospitals that provide the HSE National Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) service. Funding for sites is provided centrally through the HSE with an agreed minimum allocation of BAHA devices to each site per year as set out below;

Acute Hospital	Number of BAHAs
▪ Galway University Hospital	15
▪ South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, Cork	15
▪ Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	15
▪ Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore	15
▪ Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin	15
▪ Temple Street Children's Hospital	5

Each service has a small multidisciplinary team that provides assessments, surgery and post-operative management of patients within their catchment area. The National BAHA working group has developed clinical guidelines for referrals, assessment and management of patients. The BAHA team is responsible for prioritising their patients.

PQ 6409/21- “To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients currently waiting on bone anchor hearing aids by hospital in tabular form.”

Acute Hospital	No Waiting Assessment	No Waiting on Surgery	Total Waiting
Mater	4	7	11
Temple Street	4	0	4
Galway University Hospital	17	7	24
Our Lady Children’s Hospital Crumlin	4	17	21
South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital	23	7	30
Midlands Regional University Hospital, Tullamore	Information not available within timeframe for response to the Parliamentary Question		

The National HSE BAHA programme is centrally funded and co-ordinated by primary care. All sites are required to be compliant with annual data returns (including outcome measures), goods ordering and receipting as per financial regulations. The National BAHA programme cannot support any expansion of any BAHA service without receiving the pre-requisite data required for the governance of the programme.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



TJ Dunford

Head of Operations; Primary Care.

Community Operations.