



Géaroibríochtaí
Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, An Bóthar
Míleata Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

Acute Operations
Unit 4A, The Dargan Building, Heuston South Quarter,
Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8

☎: 0179 59971 📧: acute.operations@hse.ie

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Deputy Catherine Connolly TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ No. 8417/21

To ask the Minister for Health his plans for cooperation with other EU member states which have a surplus of radiologists and in which scans can be reported upon very efficiently and quickly given the shortage of consultant radiologists in Ireland and the delays caused in diagnosis as a result of the time taken to read scans; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

While there are reciprocal arrangements between EU member States across many areas of healthcare, especially for some specialised forms of treatment, it is currently not considered necessary to utilise these arrangements for Radiology as other measures are being taken to address capacity issues in Radiology. These include:

- (a) The use of National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) pathways to use spare Radiology capacity in the private hospital system,
- (b) Outsourcing (to private sector Radiology service providers), and
- (c) Insourcing (whereby existing Radiologists receive extra payments for working additional hours).

While it is acknowledged that Ireland needs more Radiologists, these short-medium term measures are proving to be useful interim solutions in helping to clear backlogs, reduce waiting lists for Radiology examinations, and ensure that the risk of delayed diagnoses is minimised.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations