

CC/MB/MC

Email: [pgmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pgmidwestacute@hse.ie)

28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Mr Martin Browne TD  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 4210/21

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of cataract surgeries that were carried out at Nenagh Hospital in 2019 and 2020, in tabular form. -Martin Browne**

Dear Deputy Browne,

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 table below outlines the number of cataract surgeries that were carried out at Nenagh General Hospital between 2019 and 2020:

Year	Number of Cataract Surgeries
2019	1,416
2020	609
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,025</b>

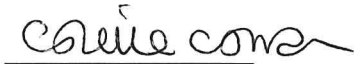
A dedicated cataract surgery service operates in Nenagh General Hospital four days per week. This dedicated cataract service has made a significant improvement to the wait times for all UL Hospitals Group patients by allowing greater access to theatre and thus reducing wait times. It allows non complex day case cataracts to be scheduled in Nenagh General Hospital and the complex cataract and other eye surgeries to be scheduled in University Hospital Limerick.

Unfortunately, owing to the ongoing COVID-19 Public Health Emergency the majority of all Inpatient & Day Case procedures as well as outpatient appointments have been postponed. This has led to a decrease in the number of cataract surgeries taking place at Nenagh Hospital. We are currently prioritising the most urgent surgical and medical cases and will restart scheduled surgery once it is deemed safe to do so.

Emergency and time-critical services continued to operate throughout the pandemic and as the weeks progressed, there was considerable growth of and investment in virtual outpatient consultations for many specialties across the system. A virtual clinic is one in which the patient and clinician interact in real time, via a video or telephone.

I trust this clarifies the position. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



**Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**