



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

OFFICE OF THE CEO  
SOUTH / SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL GROUP  
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T12 EDK0

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Deputy Thomas Gould,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 11335/21**

**\* To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who have been waiting for oncology appointments in County Cork for six, 12 and over 24 months, respectively-Thomas Gould**

Dear Deputy Gould,

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

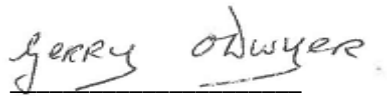
The South/ South West Hospital Group(S/SWHG) can confirm that there are no cancer patients waiting for an oncology appointment in County Cork for six, 12 and over 24 months.

The S/SWHG has undertaken substantial work to manage the effect of Covid-19 on cancer services and overall activity and additional capacity has been generated through a variety of means such as insourcing (out of hours capacity), use of the private hospital arrangement and National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) funding.

A dedicated team supported by the Group and the National Clinical Programme for Surgery (NCPS) have commenced work at exploring further ways to expand theatre resources and ensure timely access to surgery for patients over the forthcoming weeks and months. The full resumption and development of theatre activity and cancer services is a priority for S/SWHG, however, this will be dependent on the transmission rates of COVID-19 in the community and the resulting pressures on acute services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gerry O'Dwyer in cursive script, underlined.

**Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer**

**CEO,**

**South/South West Hospital Group**

**E-mail [ceo.sswhg@hse.ie](mailto:ceo.sswhg@hse.ie)**