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January 31st 2022

PQ Ref. 2252/22

To ask the Minister for Health the action that is being taken to alleviate current waiting time of 10 to 12 weeks for patients waiting on urgent referrals to the Breast Check clinic at Galway University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Rose Conway-Walsh.

Dear Deputy Conway-Walsh,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

In terms of a response for Breast Check, as this is not under the remit of Galway University Hospitals, you will need to contact Ms. Jennifer Kelly the Breast Check Business Manager at Jennifer.Kelly@screeningservice.ie.

Please note the following in relation to the Symptomatic Breast Unit UHG:

Current waiting times for the Breast Unit are as follows:

- Urgent patients are waiting since October 2021.
- Routine patients are waiting since February 2021.

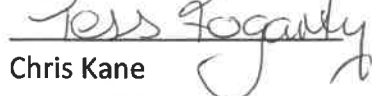
The impact of the COVID Pandemic and the cyber-attack cannot be ignored and planning in relation to initiatives and capacity requirements are underway.

The unit is currently addressing the issues in terms of access by running initiative clinics. One round of such clinics completed in December, which ran for 7 weeks, reduced the urgent waiting list by 64%.

Planning in terms of capacity is underway with recruitment processes upcoming in nursing Advanced Nurse Practitioner (cANP), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and Breast Physicians so as to both deal with the current waiting list and access to care going forward.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,


Chris Kane

General Manager, Galway University Hospitals.