



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram
Príomhúil,
Chabháin, Dhún na nGall, Liatroim,
Mhúineacháin, Shiligh,
Campas Naomh Damhnait,
Muineachain

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25th July 2022

Ms Pauline Tully TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Forwarded PQ ref 39109/22 – “To ask the Minister for Health the total number of persons on the waiting list for ophthalmology in counties Cavan and Monaghan; the average waiting time for appointment in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted to the Chief Officer, CHO 1 for response. I have examined the matter, and the following outlines the position

At the end of June 2022 the following is a breakdown of the number of persons on the waiting list for ophthalmology in counties Cavan and Monaghan and the average waiting time for appointment

Number of children aged 0-4 years	Number of children and young people aged 5-17 years	Number of adults aged 18-64 years	Number of adults aged 65years+
278	554	187	323
Avg. waiting time	Avg. waiting time	Avg. waiting time	Avg. waiting time
60% are waiting less than 26 weeks. 40% are waiting 27 weeks+. 14% are waiting longer than 52 weeks	46% are waiting less than 26 weeks. 54% are waiting 27 weeks+. 40% are waiting longer than 52 weeks	15% are waiting less than 26 weeks. 85% are waiting 27 weeks+. 57% are waiting longer than 52 weeks.	17% are waiting less than 26 weeks. 83% are waiting 27 weeks+. 66% are waiting longer than 52 weeks.

There has been a significant increase in waiting times due to a reduction in clinical staffing (due to a retirement) and reduced numbers attending the clinics due to the Infection, Prevention and Control measures that are in place to ensure staff and patient safety.

An application to replace in full the Community Ophthalmologist post has been approved and is presently listed for approval through the CACC (Consultant Applications Advisory Committee) process. Other clinical roles to enhance and support the Eye Care Team are been identified including a Staff Nurse post which has recently been approved.

There are a number of validation processes taking place in the department to validate new referrals and those patients who are waiting on review/follow up appointments.

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

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Mandy Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mandy Doyle
Head of Service Primary Care CHO1

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An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

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