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PQ 28940/22: **To ask the Minister for Health if his Department or the HSE have had discussions for the provision of gallium scans outside of Dublin given that there appears to be a considerable waiting list for the two existing units with the belief that those outside Dublin are being unfairly treated on the waiting list; if such discussions have occurred the status of such plans; the areas in which will they be located; if finance has been provided; when the scans will be operational; if not, if he will address this imbalance in the health system as a matter of urgency; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

I am writing in response to your PQ outlined above. As you are aware gallium scans have many uses. The response to your query is in the context of gallium scans in the diagnosis/treatment of neuroendocrine tumours (NETs)*.

To date these scans have been available in the greater Dublin area – SVUH being the main centre for accessing thee scans as it is the designated national centre for the managements of NETs, with satellite units in Cork and Galway. SVUH has confirmed that GA-68 dotatate scans are discussed and categorised on clinical urgency. Geographical location is not a factor in determining date of scan. Requests are appointed on categorisation priority and the longest waiting. At present a category 1 average waiting time is approximately 6 weeks but SVUH are actively working to bring down this wait time.

We hope that this answers the query but welcome any further detail which would facilitate a more accurate response.

Yours sincerely

Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide
National Director
National Cancer Control Programme

* Gallium (Ga)-68 dotatate is a radiopharmaceutical tracer used during PET (positron emission tomography) scans. Some PET/CT combination scanners also run a CT (computed tomography) scan in the same session and then merge the images together. The Ga-68 PET/CT full-body scan can capture neuroendocrine tumours (NETs) that overexpress somatostatin receptors and show where the tumours are in the body.