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30th June 2022

PQ 31379/22: To ask the Minister for Health if his Department plans to provide a multidisciplinary approach and central referral mechanism for positive breast cancer gene patients to access surgeons for prophylactic surgeries; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ 31377/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who are waiting on prophylactic mastectomies following a positive breast cancer gene diagnosis; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ 31378/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who are waiting on prophylactic gynaecological procedures following a positive breast cancer gene diagnosis; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ 31386/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who tested positive for breast cancer gene one and two in 2020 and 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The NCCP does not have access to the data sets requested as part of this PQ. The data would have to be requested from individual hospital sites or perhaps NTPF.

The HSE has established a National Genetic and Genomic Steering Group, tasked with developing a National Genetic and Genomic Strategy and implementation plan for Ireland. The inaugural meeting of the Steering Group was held in May 2022. The Steering Group is chaired by Dr Mark Bale, former Genomics Advisor to the UK Department of Health, supported by the HSE's Chief Clinical Officer. The group includes representatives from a range of clinical specialties in Ireland (including representatives from the National Cancer Control Programme), academic and patient representatives and international experts in the area of genetics and genomics. It will provide a model for coordination and integration between clinicians, and review the needs for a centralised national body with responsibility for genetic services and the establishment of future services, with appropriate governance structures, policies, procedure, and protocols. The strategy will define what actions and resources are needed, including funding and staffing levels, allowing the HSE to develop a genomic service for Ireland that will improve health outcomes, drive down the cost of care and fuel scientific innovation and discovery.

The National Genetic and Genomic Strategy for Ireland and implementation plan will be published before the end of 2022.

For further information see <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/media/pressrel/hse-initiates-a-national-genetics-and-genomics-strategy-for-ireland.html#:~:text=Press%20Releases-,HSE%20initiates%20a%20National%20Genetics%20and%20Genomics%20Strategy%20for%20Ireland,Genetic%20and%20Genomic%20Steering%20Group>

Yours sincerely



Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide
National Director
National Cancer Control Programme

