

Private & Confidential

9th December 2022

Deputy Brendan Griffin TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare St, Dublin 2

PQ Number: 54322/22

Dear Deputy Griffin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) – South (Cork & Kerry) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this office for response.

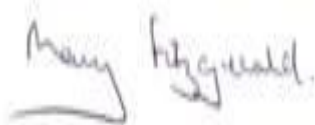
PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the current average waiting time for post mortem examinations in County Kerry; if a Kerry-based pathologist would reduce the waiting times; if he will clarify if a post mortem will be carried out in Kerry when just one body awaits; if he considers it unacceptable for the next-of-kin to have to wait three days for a post mortem; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brendan Griffin

We have 3-4 pathologists that have to travel from Cork and Limerick to carry out post mortems in Kerry. We normally have cover on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, depending on the need for them. We also have cover most weekends, depending on the availability of the pathologist and also depending on when the deceased person would be admitted to the mortuary. We are one of the very few mortuaries in Ireland that carries out post mortems on weekends, most of them wait until the Monday. It would be on a very rare occasion that a body would be waiting 3 days for a post mortem to be carried out, this may have happened if one of the pathologists was on annual leave and Dr. Bolster may also be covering State cases. I can also clarify that the waiting time for one case would be the very same as a number of cases.

A Kerry based pathologist would reduce the waiting time for post mortems but overall we do not have issues with waiting times.

I trust this response is to your satisfaction; should you have any further queries however, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Fitzgerald
Interim General Manager
University Hospital Kerry