

CC/JC/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

25th October 2022

Mr Jackie Cahill TD,
Dàil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 50259/22

To ask the Minister for Health the current average wait time for a chest x-ray in Nenagh General Hospital, from the point of referral until the x-ray is carried out; the reason that the time that a patient is expected to wait following referral has apparently increased from two to eight weeks; the way in which he plans to address this; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cahill,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

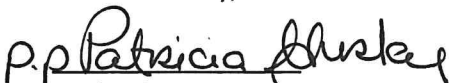
I have been in contact with the relevant staff and I have been informed that temporary radiography staffing deficits have impacted wait times for non-urgent chest X-rays. We are currently running the service in Nenagh with a reduced number of radiographers due to both planned and unplanned staff leave.

The current average wait time for a non-urgent chest x-ray in Nenagh Hospital is 10 weeks. The average wait time in the fully staffed unit in recent years has been 2-4 weeks.

We expect that the staffing deficits and patient wait times will have improved by January 2023. In the meantime, we are trying to secure locum cover for this service to ensure that wait times for non-urgent chest x-rays are kept to a minimum.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group