

PQ Rep IEHG  
Email: [pqrep@iehg.ie](mailto:pqrep@iehg.ie)

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Deputy John McGuinness T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
E: [john.mcguinness@oireachtas.ie](mailto:john.mcguinness@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: PQ 42281/22 – Dermatology Services, St Luke's Hospital**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the services available at St. Lukes Hospital, Kilkenny for patients with skin disease; if a consultant and support team are available on site in the hospital; if so, the date of the commencement of the service; the number of patients attending the service; if there is a waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on dermatology services in St Luke's Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that St. Luke's General Hospital presently does not have any Consultant on site service for dermatology patients.

In 2013 two Consultant Dermatologist posts were approved and appointed to University Hospital Waterford (UHW) with 5 hours outreach OPD dermatology sessions to both Kilkenny and South Tipperary under the NCCP (National Cancer Control Plan). The dermatology service remained in Waterford and accepted patients from Carlow /Kilkenny.

In 2017, a Consultant Dermatologist was appointed within the Ireland East Hospital Group to St Vincent's University Hospital with an outreach clinic session 1 day per week to St Luke's General Hospital. This consultant presence on site continued for 6 months during 2017. This consultant position was replaced however the onsite outreach sessions were discontinued.

Agreement was eventually reached that direct GP referrals of patients from Carlow/Kilkenny could be made to St Vincent's University Hospital. Patient referrals are made by GPs in this area to both UHW and St Vincent's Hospital.

St Luke's General Hospital does not have access to the current number of patients from Carlow/Kilkenny on both the outpatient dermatology waiting lists in UHW and St Vincents Hospital.

In January 2022 there were 695 patients from Carlow and 877 patients from Kilkenny awaiting outpatient dermatology appointments at University Hospital Waterford.

The overall dermatology waiting list data (not broken down by county of referral ) is as follows for June 2022 (includes patients from all referring counties including Carlow/Kilkenny)

	St Vincents University Hospital	University Hospital Waterford
Dermatology waiting list numbers as of June 2022	4178	10581

There is ongoing engagement with the IEHG (Ireland East Hospital Group) and the SSWHG (South South West Hospital Group) on the additional dermatology resources required to meet the needs of Carlow and Kilkenny patients, and preferably the reinstatement of an outreach consultant dermatology clinic on site at St Luke's General Hospital.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Slattery  
General Manager, St Luke's General Hospital Carlow-Kilkenny