

30th May 2023

Deputy Ivana Bacik TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 1687/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who were previously diagnosed with bowel cancer and who are waiting for a recommended follow-up colonoscopy in the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group in each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, and to-date in 2023, by each hospital and waiting time period, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Bacik

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The following is provided by the Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise, Tullamore, St James Hospital and Tallaght University Hospitals who are part of the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group.

Hospitals records do not specifically record the information of patients who have been previously diagnosed with bowel cancer.

Follow up procedures are staged or timed where the consultant will indicate the date / year the patient should be re scoped (i.e. 6 months, 1 year, 3 years etc.) Patient colonoscopy surveillance is carried out for numerous clinical reasons. Please note these patients are not actively waiting or due a colonoscopy until their indicative year meaning a total number does not reflect those actually due.

For further context and background Tallaght University Hospital have advised the following- After the operation patients are followed up via a protocol driven, nurse led colorectal cancer follow up clinic. This runs alongside the named Consultants' clinic. Our protocol specifies that patients should have a surveillance colonoscopy at 1 year, 3 years and 5 years after their cancer surgery and after that every 3 – 5 years depending on findings of last colonoscopy. The oncology nurse coordinator - Colorectal cancer ensures these colonoscopies are completed within the specific timelines. The oncology nurse coordinator works closely with endoscopy scheduling staff to ensure that these patients are facilitated. If a surveillance patient presents with new symptom, they are prioritised for an urgent colonoscopy.

Teach Uisce an Droichid, Ionad Gnó Uisce an Droichid, Bóthar Conyngham, Dhroichead na hInse, Baile Átha Cliath D08 T9NH.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours Sincerely



Mr Trevor O' Callaghan
Chief Executive Officer

Teach Uisce an Droichid, Ionad Gnó Uisce an Droichid, Bóthar Conyngham, Dhroichead na hInse, Baile Átha Cliath D08 T9NH.