



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,  
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile  
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

Office of the National Director  
Acute Operations

Unit 4a, the Dargan Building, Heuston  
South Quarter, Military Road,  
Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 NN9V

www.hse.ie  
@hselive

t 01 795 9972  
e acutehospitals@hse.ie

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

***PQ 19027/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on radiotherapy services across the country; the number of linear accelerators currently closed; what facilities these are located in; the impact of these closures on cancer treatment services; the number of radiotherapist vacancies nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jim O'Callaghan***

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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.

Radiotherapy services in Ireland are currently dealing with significant capacity issues across all of the public sites in Galway, Cork and Dublin. As with other services, this is due to staff shortages among key clinical groups such as Radiation therapists.

The challenges facing Radiotherapy services are kept under constant Clinical and Managerial review by the HSE / National Cancer Control Programme through monitoring processes such as Key Performance Indicators. HSE Patients are regularly assessed and triaged in line with national clinical guidance to prioritise as required. If necessary patients are facilitated to cross sites and/or utilise private radiotherapy capacity if available.

With regard to vacancies, the HSE does not maintain a vacancy rate. Staff are recruited by local services, through national recruitment initiatives and through external agencies by the HSE and Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals and agencies. Details of vacancies across the organisation are not currently held centrally, therefore, we are not in a position to provide the information you request.

However, I am advised by St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network (SLRON) that currently the impact of linac closures are being mitigated by Radiation Therapists across the network treating patients on an additional scheduled overtime basis. This has enabled the network to maintain the number of patients starting treatment and the number of fractions delivered on a monthly basis in the network despite the closure.

SLRON have also advised that they have 30 permanent Radiation Therapist vacancies, 14 Radiation Therapist temporary vacancies for example; maternity leave, parental leave. This equates to 30% vacant posts in SLRON (St. Luke's, St. James and Beaumont).

With regard to the number and status of linacs please see attached excel template. Please note that in relation to SLRON the table does not show scanning or treatment planning activity. Linacs operate for 9 hours daily (exceptions are days where there is quality assurance or preventative maintenance)



I trust this is of assistance,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nessa Lynch', written over a horizontal line.

**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**



Hospital	Equipment Description	Model	Location in Hospital or Site	Qty Linacs	Status
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Synergy	Unit 5 SLROC		Open
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Synergy	Unit 6 SLROC		Open for 2 hours daily
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Synergy	Unit 7 SLROC		Open
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Synergy	Unit 8 SLROC		Open
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Truebeam	Unit 3 SLH		Open
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Truebeam	Unit 4 SLH		Open
			Total	6	
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Clinac IXS	Radiotherapy, SLROC James		Open
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Clinac IXS	Radiotherapy, SLROC James		Open
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Clinac IXS	Radiotherapy, SLROC James		Closed
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Clinac IXS	Radiotherapy, SLROC James		Open
			Total	4	
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Clinac IXS	Radiotherapy, SLROC Beaumont		Open
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Clinac IXS	Radiotherapy, SLROC Beaumont		Open for 7 hours daily
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Clinac IXS	Radiotherapy, SLROC Beaumont		Open
SLRON	Linear Accelerator	Clinac IXS	Radiotherapy, SLROC Beaumont		Open for 6 hours daily
			Total	4	
CUH	Linear Accelerator 1	Versa HD	CUH		Open
CUH	Linear Accelerator 2	Versa HD	CUH		Open
CUH	Linear Accelerator 3	Versa HD	CUH		Open
CUH	Linear Accelerator 4	Versa HD	CUH		Open
CUH	Linear Accelerator 5	Versa HD	CUH		Open
			Total	5	
UCHG	Linear Accelerator	Oncor Avant garde	UCHG		Open
UCHG	Linear Accelerator	Oncor Impression Plus	UCHG		Open
UCHG	Linear Accelerator	Oncor Impression	UCHG		Open
			Total	3	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	