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26th February 2024

Deputy Patricia Ryan

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 54018/23 – *To ask the Minister for Health if he will investigate the circumstance where an urgent MRI scan in St. James's Hospital, Dublin is now taking a minimum of six to eight weeks; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Ryan,

We apologise for the delay in our response to your question which we received on 4th December 2023. In order to investigate the matter of the waiting time for an urgent MRI scan, it was necessary to seek patient details via the PAD Office, which we recently received.

Waiting times for MRI scans vary for a number of reasons. Urgent scans are performed within 24 hours of being ordered. Ms Ryan's MRI scan was ordered by her orthopaedic consultant, Mr Piggot, on 20th October 2023. Each request is reviewed by a radiologist who clinically prioritises the patient based on their urgency to be seen. It is this prioritisation that determines the scheduling date. Ms Ryan's MRI scan was prioritised with a timeframe of the 'next available appointment'.

Ms Ryan underwent her MRI scan on 15th December, which was the soonest available appointment.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Aisling Collins

Interim Chief Operations Officer