

General Manager's Office  
University Hospital Waterford,  
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital, Kilkenny  
South/South West Hospital Group  
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23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Mr Mattie McGrath  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 3465 - To ask the Minister for Health the reason it is taking 20 weeks for testing of routine samples at University Hospital Waterford; the efforts that are being made to reduce this time given the concern that such a long wait time can be harmful to a patient; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy McGrath

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 examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I can advise that University Hospital Waterford is experiencing a continuing backlog in the reporting of non urgent Histology cases. At present, the current waiting time is approximately 20 weeks. The demand on Histology Services at UHW far exceeds our capacity. We also have an ever increasing workload with rises in complex/cancer cases.

**Please note that urgent work is not affected by the backlog and that all urgent samples are being prioritised.**

We apologise for the inconvenience that this situation is causing for patients. However I can assure you that we are working to address the backlog.

I trust the above is satisfactory but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Grace Rothwell**  
General Manager  
University Hospital Waterford  
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital