

Johnny Guirke TD
Sinn Féin
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

e. johnny.guirke@oireachtas.ie

8th February 2023

Re. PQ3778/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number and proportion of overall patients currently waiting longer than the recommended timeframe for cancer surgery (details supplied) in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details supplied: lung, prostate, breast, pancreas, colorectal, stomach, bladder, stomach, brain, ovarian, cervical.

Dear Deputy Guirke,

The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) collates a subset of aggregate data related to specific tumours, including data pertaining to rapid access services for people with suspected breast, lung and prostate cancer, and more limited data for a number of other tumour types.

The NCCP do collect time to surgery Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data on breast, lung, prostate and pancreatic cancer surgery. However, data on the timeliness of these surgeries is only collected in retrospect when patients have undergone their procedure. The NCCP do not have access to data on patients currently scheduled for such treatment and as such cannot make comment on the number or timeliness of patients currently awaiting these specific cancer surgeries.

The NCCP do not collect time to surgery Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data on colorectal, stomach, bladder, brain, ovarian and cervical cancer surgery.

The NCCP engage closely with Clinical teams across the cancer centres with regard to service challenges, service quality and prospects for service developments to improve patient pathways. NCCP also work with the National Surgical Clinical Programme regarding all cancer surgeries and surgical pathways.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cafferty
Assistant National Director
National Cancer Control Programme