

General Manager's Office
University Hospital Waterford,
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital, Kilkenny
South/South West Hospital Group
Email: uhwpq@hse.ie

23rd January 2023

Mr Richard O' Donoghue TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 3803 - To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the length of time women are waiting for biopsy results that are sent to a laboratory in Waterford, and that it is a serious concern to these women; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O' Donoghue

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,



Grace Rothwell
General Manager
University Hospital Waterford
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital