



Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

18th July 2023

Deputy Thomas Pringle,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 32260/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons currently on a waiting list for a mastectomy for each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023 by each waiting time period in each hospital, in tabular form.

PQ 32261/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons currently on a waiting list for breast reconstruction surgery for each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023 by each waiting time period, in each hospital, in tabular form.

PQ 32258/23: To ask the Minister for Health what measures are being put in place to alleviate lengthy waiting list times for breast reconstruction surgery; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 32259/23: To ask the Minister for Health whether private hospital resources are being considered to alleviate the backlog of breast reconstruction surgery times; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Pringle,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Response:

Appendix I provides information on the number of persons male and female, currently on a waiting list for a mastectomy for each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023 by each waiting time period in each hospital, in tabular form

Appendix II provides information on the number of persons male and female, currently on a waiting list for a breast reconstruction surgery for each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023 by each waiting time period in each hospital, in tabular form

This information has been provided by the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF), however, this data is for all patients awaiting treatment and details of the clinical reason for the procedure is not collected. Time to breast cancer treatment surgery is prioritised and monitored within cancer centres and by the National Cancer Control Programme where the

surgical timeframe for patients newly diagnosed with breast cancer should be within 20 working days of the decision to treat. Over 77% of patients met this target in 2022 with the majority of the remainder being treated within 30 working days. These timelines are more critical than the data collection parameters of the NTPF waiting lists which are configured as 0-3 months, 3-6 months and 6-12 months.

As part of a multi-annual approach to tackling waiting lists, Waiting List Action Plans have been developed by the Department of Health, the HSE and the National Treatment Purchase Fund which set out ambitious targets to improve waiting lists and waiting times by delivering additional activity across acute hospitals, within the community and in private settings.

The 2023 Waiting List Action Plan aims to deliver sustained reductions in waiting list numbers and waiting times this year with €443 million allocated to the HSE and the National Treatment Purchase Fund for extra public and private activity and to enable longer term reform. With specific reference to your queries, surgical breast procedures, have been funded via the NTPF directly for insourcing and by the HSE for outsourcing from public hospitals to private facilities, including breast reconstruction surgeries.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish King', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Trish King,
Acute Operations.

Appendix I

Table a. The number of persons currently on a waiting list for a mastectomy in each of the years 2018 to 2022 and to date 2023, by each waiting time period, in each hospital.

IPDC Mastectomy Waiting List By Hospital/Time Band 2018-2022 & YTD 2023						
Row Labels	0-6 Months	6-12 Months	12-18 Months	18+ Months	Small/Vol/b	Grand Total
Beaumont Hospital	84	40	21	8		153
20/12/2018	15					15
19/12/2019	32	11				43
23/12/2020	12	5	10	8		35
22/12/2022	15	13				28
29/06/2023	10	11	11			32
Cork University Hospital	124	35	7		26	192
20/12/2018	15	9			5	29
19/12/2019	11	6				17
23/12/2020	5				7	12
23/12/2021	27				9	36
22/12/2022	29	14			5	48
29/06/2023	37	6	7			50
Galway University Hospitals	179	92	46	55		372
20/12/2018	18			5		23
19/12/2019	20	7	6			33
23/12/2020	15	11	5			31
23/12/2021	33	6	5	11		55
22/12/2022	57	24	13	15		109
29/06/2023	36	44	17	24		121
Letterkenny University Hospital	56	10			20	86
20/12/2018	5					5
19/12/2019	5					5
23/12/2020	11					11
23/12/2021	14				9	23
22/12/2022	13	5			6	24
29/06/2023	8	5			5	18
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	488	101	49	69		707
19/12/2019	68					68
23/12/2020	32	15	18			65
23/12/2021	87	30	7	21		145
22/12/2022	136	21	14	15		186
29/06/2023	165	35	10	33		243
SmallVolHospital					79	79
20/12/2018					13	13
19/12/2019					15	15
23/12/2020					18	18
23/12/2021					18	18
22/12/2022					8	8
29/06/2023					7	7

South Infirmiry Victoria University Hospital	8				19	27
19/12/2019					5	5
22/12/2022					7	7
29/06/2023	8				7	15
St. James's Hospital	647	260	157	256		1320
20/12/2018	78	39	27	38		182
19/12/2019	68	28	16	21		133
23/12/2020	70	17	31	49		167
23/12/2021	125	49	31	41		246
22/12/2022	150	35	22	47		254
29/06/2023	156	92	30	60		338
St. John's Hospital Limerick	21	16				37
20/12/2018	5	5				10
19/12/2019	5					5
22/12/2022	6	11				17
29/06/2023	5					5
St. Michael's Hospital	6					6
23/12/2020	6					6
St. Vincent's University Hospital	182	47	13	14	11	267
20/12/2018	14				5	19
19/12/2019	13					13
23/12/2020	22				6	28
23/12/2021	38	17				55
22/12/2022	51	19		7		77
29/06/2023	44	11	13	7		75
University Hospital Waterford	103	42	24	42	13	224
20/12/2018	6					6
19/12/2019	12				6	18
23/12/2020	11	12			7	30
23/12/2021	18	6	9	14		47
22/12/2022	29	10	7	13		59
29/06/2023	27	14	8	15		64
Grand Total	1898	643	317	444	168	3470

*Note small volumes of patients waiting in specific time bands have been totalled and are reported under “small volumes” in line with data reporting requirements associated with ensuring that patients are not identifiable.

Appendix II

Table b. the number of persons currently on a waiting list for breast reconstruction surgery in each of the years 2018, to 2022 and to date 2023, by each waiting time period, in each hospital,

IPDC Breast Reconstruction Surgery Waiting List By Hospital/Time Band 2018-2022 & to Date 2023						
Row Labels	0-6 Months	6-12 Months	12-18 Months	18+ Months	SmallVoltb	Grand Total
Beaumont Hospital	188	108	21	5		322
2018	20	17				37
2019	18	12				30
2020	47	13	7	5		72
2021	28	22				50
2022	36	16				52
2023	39	28	14			81
Cork University Hospital					5	5
2021					5	5
Galway University Hospitals	79	48	54	214		395
2018	10	7	5	8		30
2019	6	6	8	14		34
2020	19	6	7	37		69
2021	13	9	12	41		75
2022	12	10	15	51		88
2023	19	10	7	63		99
Letterkenny University Hospital	35	19	5		11	70
2018					6	6
2020	6					6
2021	5					5
2022	14	7	5			26
2023	10	12			5	27
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	27	18		17	33	95
2018	7				5	12
2019	5				8	13
2020					11	11
2021		7			9	16
2022	7	5		6		18
2023	8	6		11		25
Portiuncula University Hospital		7				7
2023		7				7
Roscommon University Hospital	10	6		33	6	55
2020				9	6	15
2021				12		12
2022	5			7		12
2023	5	6		5		16
SmallVolHospital					96	96
2018					9	9
2019					15	15
2020					10	10
2021					21	21
2022					21	21
2023					20	20

South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital	5				22	27
2020					7	7
2021	5					5
2022					9	9
2023					6	6
St. James's Hospital	84	46	14	74		218
2018	14	14		8		36
2019	11	8	6	5		30
2020	8		8	15		31
2021	14	5		15		34
2022	16	5		16		37
2023	21	14		15		50
St. John's Hospital Limerick	6	11		14	23	54
2018	6	5				11
2019					6	6
2020				6	7	13
2021				8		8
2022		6				6
2023					10	10
St. Vincent's University Hospital	5	6	6		29	46
2018			6		6	12
2019		6				6
2020					8	8
2022					9	9
2023	5				6	11
Grand Total	439	269	100	357	225	1390

*Note small volumes of patients waiting in specific time bands have been totalled and are reported under “small volumes” in line with data reporting requirements associated with ensuring that patients are not identifiable.