



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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7th July 2023

Deputy Darren O'Rourke
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re PQ 28166/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the steps if any are currently being undertaken to reduce the HSE general anaesthesia waiting list for children which is currently at 12-18 months within the Louth Meath dental service; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Darren O'Rourke

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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 outlined the position as follows.

The Louth Meath Dental HSE service currently has limited General Anaesthesia (GA) theatre access within Cavan General Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda. The waiting list is as a result of ongoing limited access and the backlogs created by the Covid-19 pandemic when in 2020, all dental GA theatre sessions were cancelled only returning in a very limited capacity in April 2021 before being suspended again in November 2021 due to the pressures faced within the hospital system.

The lack of access to a GA service for Dental care is not an issue limited to the Louth Meath area, it is a national issue, which pre-dates the COVID-19 pandemic. While seeking theatre space privately within the private hospital network is also proving very challenging, the service is continuously seeking to secure additional capacity in order to address the waiting lists and to ensure that patients are seen in as timely a manner as possible. It is hoped that additional capacity will be secured in the coming months.

Until such time as each patient awaiting their treatment under GA are appointed, the dental staff will continue to monitor and review these patients in order to provide any care or treatment within the community setting and will also continue to provide emergency appointments to patients as needed.



I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Broadbank'.

Carole Broadbank
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation