



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

6th March 2023

Mr David Cullinane TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 11259 - To ask the Minister for Health if there has been a request for additional resources to tackle a backlog of cancer screening tests at University Hospital Waterford, the number of additional staff required by grade in tabular form and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane

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 confirm that a backlog has emerged in the reporting times for routine histopathology specimens in South East Regional Laboratory Service based in University Hospital Waterford (UHW). All urgent samples have been and continue to be prioritised and processed without delay.

UHW are working hard to address the backlog in as timely a manner as possible and a number of measures have been taken to support the service. These measures include Consultant Histopathologists and Medical Scientists working additional hours and weekends; the use of additional medical agency staff; and additional supports from other hospital laboratories. Efforts continue to source and secure further supports including additional histopathologists and laboratories in order to clear the backlog as soon as possible.

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