



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

4th April 2023

PQ 12668/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of full-time equivalent radiation therapists that are required to ensure that people with cancer start radiation therapy within the required timeframe. -Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 consulted with colleagues in the National Cancer Control Programme and with colleagues in Scheduled Care and am advised that unfortunately the information you have requested is not collected centrally therefore we are unable to provide response as requested.

The NCCP does not collect information on the number of patients waiting to access cancer treatment services (radiotherapy, systematic anti-cancer therapy (SACT), and surgery). This information may be sought from individual cancer centres/hospitals.

However, because of the relatively short time frames between cancer patients being deemed ready to treat and commencing treatment, there are no official national waiting lists for cancer treatment services. Official National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) definitions of a waiting list, with timelines of 0-3months, 3-6months, 6-12months etc., are typically not applicable to cancer patients.

The NCCP does, however, collect KPI data that measures the proportion of patients who commence cancer treatment within the recommended timeframe from being deemed ready to treat. Recommended timeframes vary according to treatment modality.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations