



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Colm Burke
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

1st June 2023

PQ 23007/23 - To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on waiting times for gynaecological outpatient waiting lists in hospitals nationwide of the conditions the referrals relate including chronic pelvic pain, urinary incontinence and endometriosis for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 30 April 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

Please see attached out-patient (OP) Gynaecology waiting list data and note that each previous year's report contains the latest publications data – end of December, and this year's latest publication data from end of April. (source: National Treatment Purchase Fund).

In relation to the OP waiting list data sourced, this is summarised per year with a breakdown of figures given per waiting time period i.e. 0.3 months, 3 – 6 months.

Previous year's figures can be filtered at the top of the spreadsheet (row 3 column B).

Please note that the services that hold general OP waiting lists, are not condition or primary symptom presenting specific, therefore it is not possible to extract figures specifically in relation to referrals regarding chronic pelvic pain, urinary incontinence and endometriosis.

Please note that in the area of gynaecology care, a significant work programme is also under way under the auspices of National Womens and Infants Health Programme regarding improving access to gynaecology services in their totality.

This work programme to date is resulting in the development and implementation of twenty ambulatory gynaecology services, six specialist complex menopause services, a network of regional hub services and supra-regional services in the area of endometriosis and six fertility regional hubs services.

Work is on-going within the HSE and the Department of Health to further invest in gynaecology services in 2023 with a view to expanding capacity in the areas of, out-patients, day cases and inpatients by means of investing in senior clinical decision makers and expanding gynaecology theatre capacity.

Please also be advised that significant progress is now being made in the area of women waiting greater than 12 months and that gynaecology teams around the country are committed to driving down waiting lists in each of their areas. It needs to be noted, that this work is happening in the context that referrals to gynaecology services have increased by 50% over the last two year



period. Over the baseline of pre-Covid referrals, this is one of the highest increases across the specialties.

Investment has been critical in terms of enabling teams to manage this increased demand and continue to reduce waiting lists.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nessa Lynch', written over a horizontal line.

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations