

Ms Mary Lou McDonald TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

6 June 2023

Copy: Corla.bradley@hse.ie; pdonohue@coombe.ie

Re: PQ - 23/24948

Dear Deputy McDonald

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question regarding waiting times for the endometriosis clinic at the Coombe Hospital.

Women are booked on to the Waiting List for first appointments as either routine or urgent, depending on the content of the referral letter from the referring clinician. In order to be fair to each lady, they are seen in strict order of appearance on the Waiting List. There are two Endometriosis clinics a month, with two clinicians seeing a total of about 40 patients, both new patients and returning patients.

As the condition of a patient may change, a referring clinician then updates his/her original referral so that it can be reviewed and triaged by the consultants. In certain situations, this reduces a patient's waiting time. It is not uncommon for referring doctors to refer to more than one centre of excellence. As patients may be referred to the Tallaght Endometriosis Clinic, as well as the Coombe, the patient may be seen there and then cancel her Coombe appointment, thus freeing up an appointment slot for another patient. Therefore it is not possible for me to give you an accurate assessment of average waiting times, since there is not an average waiting time and the number of patients changes on a daily basis.

I trust this clarifies the matter for you.

Yours sincerely

MARY HOLDEN
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