

16th October, 2023 - **Update 8th February, 2024**

REF: PQ 43015/23

RE: To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting time for people on the waiting lists for gastroenterology to be seen and treated at Galway University Hospital; the number of people waiting for an appointment, by length of time on the waiting list, in tabular form; the number of people on the waiting lists to be seen who have an appointment date; the number still waiting for an appointment date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Noel Grealish

Dear Deputy Grealish,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above.

In response to your query, we have contacted the Waiting List office.

The following table outlines the waiting times for patients awaiting outpatient assessment:

	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18-21 Months	21-24 Months	24-36 Months	36-48 Months	Grand Total
Has Appointment Date	243	103	29	10	37	59	24	8	17	6	536
No Appointment Date	306	291	211	194	154	46	1				1203
Total	549	394	240	204	191	105	25	8	17	6	1739

The following table outlines the waiting time for patients awaiting a procedure (predominately a scope):

	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	36-48 Months	Grand Total
Active	294	164	12	2		1	2	475
Pre Admit	198	42	32	5	1			278
Total	492	206	44	7	1	1	2	753

There has been a significant improvement in waiting times across the Gastroenterology service. A GI initiative commenced with the outpatient clinics in October last year and the number waiting has reduced from 2,784 to 1,739 (a reduction of 1,045) during that time period.

From a procedure perspective, we have been providing additional Endoscopy lists (GI and General Surgery) since mid 2021 and the waiting list has reduced from 904 to 753 over that time period. This is a significant reduction considering the high number of referrals for scopes we have received and processed from the additional outpatient assessments provided to patients in this time period.

Update 08/02/2024: Please note the data provided was compiled at the time of this request. This response was delayed as per Forsa Industrial Action.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Kane

General Manager

Galway University Hospitals