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Deputy Paul Donnelly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

29th April 2024

PQ 12972/24 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults aged over 70 years currently on a waiting list for a cataract operation; and the hospitals that carry out this procedure, in tabular form. -Paul Donnelly

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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 understand the Department of Health has provided information to you on the number of adults aged over 70 years currently on a waiting list for a cataract operation.

A cataract is a clouding in the lens of the eye. It is strongly associated with aging. Cataract extraction surgery is one of the most commonly performed surgeries in Ireland. As the older population expands so too is the demand for increased capacity. The procedure for each eye is performed separately. The procedure is usually done as a day case.

The surgery is performed by an ophthalmologist and the sites that provide the larger volumes of surgical services are outlined below:

- Mater Hospital Dublin
- Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Dublin
- St Vincent's Hospital Dublin
- University Hospital Waterford
- South Infirmery Hospital Cork
- University Hospital Limerick & Nenagh Hospital
- University Hospital Galway
- University Hospital Sligo

An additional cataract theatre has recently opened in University Hospital Waterford and in the Mater Hospital and a second cataract only theatre will soon open in the Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital.

I trust this is of assistance to you

Yours Sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations