



Pádraig Rice TD  
Social Democrats  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

e. [padraig.rice@oireachtas.ie](mailto:padraig.rice@oireachtas.ie)

7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Re. PQ 17507/25 - To ask the Minister for Health if there has been any change to the two-week maximum wait time for BreastCheck urgent referrals; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ17506/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting longer than two weeks to be seen by BreastCheck following an urgent referral, by site, in tabular form.**

Dear Deputy Rice,

The rapid access assessment services for Symptomatic Breast Disease (SBD) Clinics operate in each of the 8 designated cancer centres, with one additional breast satellite clinic, and provide a streamlined pathway to diagnostic evaluation and specialist review for symptomatic patients. It is important to note that these are symptomatic patients being assessed for suspected cancer, the majority of whom will not be diagnosed with cancer.

Please note that the PQ references BreastCheck which is the name of the screening programme whereas the two-week time to first attendance for urgent referrals specifically references the rapid access cancer services which for breast is called the Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinics. There has been no change to this two-week (10 working day) target timeline for Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinics.

The total number of newly referred patients having first attendance at Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinics and triaged as urgent and the percentage of those seen within 10 working days of receipt of referral at the cancer centre for 2024 and 2025 is given as follows.

Symptomatic breast disease clinics triaged as Urgent	Target	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>New Attendances to symptomatic breast disease clinics triaged as Urgent</i>														
2024	*	28,050	2,351	2,172	2,183	2,662	2,544	2,105	2,629	2,260	2,473	2,347	2,449	1,875
2025	*	4,222	2,213	2,009										
<i>New Attendances to symptomatic breast disease clinics triaged as Urgent seen within 10 working days of referral</i>														
2024	95%	76.4%	82.3%	87.0%	71.2%	66.3%	69.3%	66.9%	69.1%	70.8%	79.8%	87.6%	84.2%	85.5%
2025	95%	84.8%	85.9%	83.7%										

For the most recent data taken as Jan-Feb 2025, the KPI was 84.8% within 10 working days, 90.0% within 15 working days and 92.5% within 20 working days. Please note that the monthly number of patients attending may exhibit some degree of seasonal variation. It is noted that the KPI performance in 2025 appears to be similar to that seen throughout Quarter 4 of 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Robert Conway  
SPHM Cancer Intelligence (MCRN 411192)  
National Cancer Control Programme

