

Cian O' Callaghan  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

**Re: PQ 18792/25**

Dear Minister O'Callaghan

With reference to PQ received: To ask the Minister for Health the steps she is taking to deal with bariatric surgery waiting lists for people suffering with chronic conditions; and if she will make a statement on the matter

The HSE recognise that obesity is a chronic disease requiring management across the lifespan. Following the publication of the Model of Care for Management of Overweight and Obesity in Ireland in 2021, the HSE allocated funding to expand obesity and bariatric surgery services in St Columcille's and St Vincent's University Hospitals. This resulted in significant reduction of the Level 4 bariatric surgery waiting list in SVUH.

All patients being assessed for safety and readiness for bariatric surgery require assessment and intervention in the Level 3 obesity service in SCH, before referral to the Level 4 bariatric surgery service if appropriate. The Level 3 service is currently the only operational Level 3 service in Ireland, so the waiting list for Level 3 remains long.

Current initiatives to address the Level 3 waiting list include establishment of additional Level 3 services nationally, piloting an integrated care pathway that may facilitate a parallel pathway to bariatric surgery for appropriate patients, and advanced clinical prioritisation of patients on the Level 3 waiting list, with signposting to appropriate community and specialist services, to reduce potential delay in readiness for bariatric surgery when patients are assessed in the Level 3 service.

Further information on current and proposed expansion of obesity services nationally is available from the National Clinical Programme for Obesity.



St. Columcille's Hospital  
Loughlinstown, Co Dublin

Yours sincerely,

**Lorraine O'Toole**

**Interim General Manager**

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