



## Chief Executive Office

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14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 20490/25** - *To ask the Minister for Health what is being done to address the length of time it is taking to get a GP referral blood test appointment in Saint James's Hospital, given that in some cases, there is a six or seven weeks' waiting period for blood tests.*

Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh,

Phlebotomy services within St James's Hospital have been prioritised to support our high volume of haematology and oncology patients who also require a referral blood test appointment in St James's Hospital for ongoing treatment and monitoring, as well as our Emergency Department patients and critical care patients who require urgent phlebotomy supports in real-time.

There are daily booking slots available for GP bloods. Waiting times are currently running at about five weeks for routine appointments. Emergency appointments are available within 24 hours and our Laboratory Administration team is supporting local GPs with booking urgent patients into these emergency slots. It is our understanding that most GPs offer a local phlebotomy service which can address sample collection services for patients.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Aisling Collins

Chief Operations Officer

