



Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

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4<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

Deputy Johnny Guirke,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare St.,  
Dublin 2.

**RE: PQ/5623/25 -**

**'To ask the Minister for Health the total number of people triaged as urgent who attended a symptomatic breast disease clinic; and the proportion who were offered an appointment in each of the relevant hospitals managed by Saolta Hospital Group within ten working days of the date of receipt of a letter of referral in the cancer office in each quarter from 2016 to 2024, in tabular form'**

Dear Deputy Guirke,

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 have examined this matter and the following outlines the position:

The symptomatic breast disease clinics in the West and North West Region are facilitated by Galway University Hospitals (GUH) with a satellite clinic operating from Letterkenny University Hospital (LUH).

Referrals to the Symptomatic Breast Unit Galway are received from CHO2; Galway, Mayo and Roscommon, and CHO1; Sligo/Leitrim and Donegal. The Letterkenny Satellite Symptomatic Breast Unit receives referrals for Donegal in the North West, CHO1, also including Sligo and Leitrim. Referrals are also received in Galway from other CHO areas, e.g. part of CHO1 (Cavan, Monaghan) CHO3, and part of CHO8.

Tables 1 & 2 below outline the total number of persons triaged as urgent who attended a symptomatic breast disease clinic at Galway University Hospitals and Letterkenny University Hospital for each year 2016-2024, respectively.



**TABLE 1: Galway University Hospitals**

Year	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
	Seen	Seen in KPI	Seen	Seen in KPI	Seen	Seen in KPI	Seen	Seen in KPI
2016	545	544	558	555	426	383	422	403
2017	474	459	505	488	486	466	441	418
2018	439	435	387	374	414	395	726	387
2019	713	193	748	484	586	510	611	586
2020	633	529	525	509	677	492	938	544
2021	1058	486	913	294	861	191	969	141
2022	1061	240	1086	511	693	158	1094	367
2023	909	666	718	193	1052	154	1186	813
2024	1210	1190	1341	1332	1231	1213	1142	1124

**TABLE 2: Satellite Clinic – Letterkenny University Hospital**

Year	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
	Seen	Seen in KPI	Seen	Seen in KPI	Seen	Seen in KPI	Seen	Seen in KPI
2016	304	302	350	69	268	249	226	147
2017	283	90	240	61	324	153	293	268
2018	296	286	318	308	343	293	360	337
2019	333	295	341	198	289	261	362	348
2020	248	248	189	189	240	240	278	278
2021	291	285	283	230	392	318	349	347
2022	318	206	314	277	282	270	331	215
2023	323	181	385	381	371	360	390	340
2024	458	296	395	345	376	248	354	28



It is important to note the following:

- Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the Symptomatic Breast clinics were restricted from March 2020 and during 2021.
- Due to the HSE Cyber Attack on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021 many patient appointments were cancelled in May resulting in a high number of Urgent and Routine referrals being outside KPI as well as a result of Covid-19 and restricted attendances.
- Waiting List initiative clinics commenced in September 2022.

A Triple Assessment Clinic requires a breast radiologist present at the clinic. LUH is challenged in the recruitment of breast radiologist but is proactively recruiting on an ongoing basis. There was sessional cover from NI radiologist in 2023 but this is no longer possible.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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**Ann Cosgrove,**  
**Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon,**  
**HSE West and North West.**