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28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Re. PQ 6730/25: To ask the Minister for Health if she will ensure the regular (monthly or quarterly) publication of figures relating to cancer care from all hospitals, in consistent machine readable formats, as per the NHS in the UK, specifically outlining: monthly numbers of newly diagnosed cancers and referral sources; types of cancer; time from first contact to first consultation in weeks (2, 3, 4, 6 and 6+); time from first consultation to definitive diagnosis and reasons for any delay; time from diagnosis to first treatment and reasons for any delay; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

Translating the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare into measures appropriate for cancer care, the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) has focused on a number of processes that are deemed key to the delivery of high quality cancer care. High quality data needs to be as complete, timely and representative as possible to enable the provision of information for action. The NCCP has taken these principles into account when determining the type of data collected and the frequency of reporting. Surveillance of outcomes is equally important and the NCCP relies on the National Cancer Registry of Ireland (NCRI) to provide robust information on cancer survival.

The NCRI collates information in relation to cancer incidence, prevalence, stage at diagnosis, treatment, survival and mortality. While information on the number of cancer cases may be available at an early stage, complete information on treatments and staging is obtained from the medical records of patients, with a significant associated time lag. This type of information will normally only be made available 2 to 3 years after the year of incidence, in keeping with international standards. Any person can get information on cancer from the Registry. The NCRI produce an annual report and a summary report, both of which are in local libraries and are available from the Registry. A wide range of information is also available at [www.ncri.ie](http://www.ncri.ie).

The NCCP defines the measures hospitals should collect on elements of the cancer diagnostic pathway in Ireland, including performance indicators for timeliness of access to rapid access clinics (RACs). Cancer screening is provided by the National Screening Service (NSS) who monitor and report uptake rates of screening and the number of cancers detected by the screening programme. Both NCCP and NSS defined performance indicators are outlined in the current HSE National Service Plan, and are published monthly in the HSE's Performance Profile at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/performance-reports/>.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Robert Conway  
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