



Stiúrthóir Rochtana
Oifig an Stiúthóra Náisiúnta um Rochtain
agus Imeascadh

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3rd February 2025

Deputy Erin McGreehan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 7003/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of people waiting more than four weeks for an urgent colonoscopy in 2024.

PQ 7004/25 – To ask the Minister for Health the proportion of all people waiting for an urgent colonoscopy in 2024, who were waiting more than four weeks.

Dear Deputy McGreehan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Response:

Further to your request, attached information relating to urgent colonoscopies which includes data from January 2024 – December 2024, inclusive, by hospital, for adults and for children.

A colonoscopy procedure is used to diagnose unexplained changes in bowel habits, abdominal pain, bleeding from the colon, weight loss etc. which can be an indicator of illnesses or diseases.

Patients who are referred to for a colonoscopy are initially triaged and all patients who have been triaged as urgent are targeted for treatment within 28 days. Management of patient scheduling in this tight timeframe is supported by appropriate guidelines and forms as a key operational target within hospitals providing endoscopy services.



In some cases, due to factors such as unscheduled care pressures, demand increases, adverse weather conditions etc., there can be a delay in patients getting access within 28 days. It is important to note that in the majority of these cases patients are scheduled in a very tight timeframe for post the 28-day target, usually in the following week.

At national, regional and hospital level there is weekly monitoring of urgent colonoscopy referrals to ensure on-going compliance with target times and to ensure that corrective measures can be applied where required.

Endoscopy services are also supported by the Endoscopy Programme with key objectives to strengthen access to Endoscopy services on an ongoing basis <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/clinical-programmes/endoscopy-programme/>

It should be noted that that on an ongoing basis, this data is also subject to change for the following reasons:

- Late submissions of data
- Resubmissions of data
- Ongoing quality assurance

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

Trish King,
Access & Integration

Please note data contained in this report is preliminary and may be subject to change

If information contained within this file is used in other reports then as a minimum requirement BIU must be referenced.



Information Request Number: PQ 7003/25 and PQ 7004/25
 Date report created: 28/02/2025
 Data Source: Urgent Colonoscopy
 Subject: To ask the Minister for Health the number of people waiting more than four weeks for an urgent colonoscopy in 2024. -Erin McGreehan

Notes: Data unavailable for Cork for week ending 19th and 26th January, Mallow General Hospital for week ending 2nd February, Mater for week ending 9th and 16th August
 Children's Health Ireland includes CHI at Crumlin and CHI at Tallaght

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| National | 460 | 391 | 457 | 387 | 157 | 141 | 151 | 249 | 120 | 198 | 452 | 460 |
| HSE Dublin & Midlands | 63 | 35 | 15 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 10 | 28 | 74 | 67 |
| Children's Health Ireland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MRH Mullingar | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MRH Portlaoise | 63 | 35 | 13 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MRH Tullamore | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Naas General Hospital | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St. James's Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 10 | 28 | 74 | 67 |
| Tallaght University Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HSE Dublin & North East | 232 | 263 | 349 | 282 | 81 | 74 | 63 | 77 | 90 | 92 | 141 | 83 |
| Beaumont Hospital | 10 | 100 | 81 | 23 | 36 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 22 | 6 |
| Cavan General Hospital | 194 | 136 | 236 | 225 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Connolly Hospital | 28 | 27 | 32 | 34 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 1 |
| Louth County Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mater Misericordiae University Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monaghan Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Our Lady's Hospital Navan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 55 | 63 | 70 | 82 | 91 | 106 | 76 |
| HSE Dublin & South East | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 39 | 140 | 216 |
| St. Columcille's Hospital | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Luke's General Hospital Kilkenny | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 134 |
| St. Michael's Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| St. Vincent's University Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tipperary University Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| UH Waterford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 38 | 140 | 61 |
| Wexford General Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HSE Mid West | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 86 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 45 |
| Ennis Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nenagh Hospital | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St. John's Hospital Limerick | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45 |
| UH Limerick | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| HSE South West | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Bantry General Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cork University Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mallow General Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Mercy University Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Infirmity Victoria University Hosp | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| UH Kerry | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HSE West & North West | 164 | 92 | 93 | 92 | 75 | 64 | 78 | 79 | 17 | 34 | 96 | 49 |
| Galway University Hospitals | 44 | 16 | 47 | 21 | 20 | 7 | 19 | 42 | 13 | 18 | 20 | 26 |
| Letterkenny University Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mayo University Hospital | 94 | 58 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 14 | 26 | 13 | 0 | 3 | 49 | 16 |
| Portiuncula University Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Roscommon University Hospital | 26 | 17 | 37 | 53 | 45 | 43 | 33 | 24 | 4 | 12 | 27 | 7 |
| Sligo University Hospital | 0 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |