



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	0	0	0	0	0	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 Infirmary 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