



David Cullinane, TD
Sinn Féin
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

23rd July 2025

Re: PQ 38114/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number and percentage of symptomatic breast cancer attendances in 2024 and to date in 2025 whose referrals were triaged as urgent and which did not adhere to the national standard of two weeks for urgent referrals.

PQ 38115/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number and percentage of lung cancer rapid-access clinic attendances in 2024 and to date in 2025 who were offered an appointment within ten working days.

PQ 38116/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number and percentage of prostate cancer rapid access clinic attendances in 2024 and to date in 2025 who were offered an appointment within 20 working days.

PQ 38117/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number and percentage of patients undergoing radical radiotherapy treatment who commenced treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat, by location, for the period 2024 to date in 2025, in tabular form.

PQ 38118/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number and percentage of new patients attending rapid access breast, lung, and prostate clinics within recommended timeframes for 2024 and to date in 2025, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The rapid access assessment services, Rapid Access Lung Clinics (RALC), Rapid Access Prostate Clinics (RAPC), and Rapid Access for Symptomatic Breast Disease (SBD) Clinics operate in each of the 8 designated cancer centres and provide a streamlined pathway to diagnostic evaluation and specialist review for these two major cancers. It is important to note that these are symptomatic patients being assessed for suspected cancer, the majority of whom will not be diagnosed with cancer.

The following data has been provided:

- The number of patients who attended a rapid access assessment service (RAC); and of those the number (and percent) who attended or were offered an appointment to attend within the target timeframe. Broken down by service (SBD; RALC; and RAPC).
- The number of patients who completed radical treatment (Radiation Oncology) for primary cancer; and of those the number (and percent) who commenced treatment within 15 working days. Broken down by hospital.
- This data is provided timeframe covering 2024 and 2025 to date (Jan - Jun).

Table 1: Access to rapid access assessment services (RAC)

Rapid access assessment service	Target timeframe	Year	Total	Met**	Percent
Symptomatic breast disease clinic (SBD)	10 WD	2024	28050	21426	76.4%
Symptomatic breast disease clinic (SBD)	10 WD	2025*	11926	8277	69.4%
Rapid Access Lung Clinics (RALC)	10 WD	2024	5014	4638	92.5%
Rapid Access Lung Clinics (RALC)	10 WD	2025*	2433	2380	97.8%
Rapid Access Prostate Clinics (RAPC)	20 WD	2024	5179	3881	74.9%
Rapid Access Prostate Clinics (RAPC)	20 WD	2025*	2566	2135	83.2%

* 2025 contains data from January - Jun 2025

** Met value includes patients who were out of target by reason of personal choice

WD = working days

Total = The number of patients who attended the RAC

Met = The number who attended or were offered an appointment within the target timeframe

Percent = Met** / Total

Table 2: Access to radiation oncology treatment

Service	Hospital	Year	Total	Met**	Percent
Radiation Oncology	Altnagelvin	2024	145	110	75.9%
Radiation Oncology	Altnagelvin	2025*	54	44	81.5%
Radiation Oncology	CUH	2024	1185	982	82.9%
Radiation Oncology	CUH	2025*	597	566	94.8%
Radiation Oncology	Galway	2024	869	706	81.2%
Radiation Oncology	Galway	2025*	330	274	83.0%
Radiation Oncology	St. Lukes Dublin	2024	3297	1963	59.5%
Radiation Oncology	St. Lukes Dublin	2025*	1320	920	69.7%
Radiation Oncology	MW Rad Onc Limerick	2024	820	743	90.6%
Radiation Oncology	MW Rad Onc Limerick	2025*	275	244	88.7%
Radiation Oncology	UPMC Whitfield	2024	399	385	96.5%
Radiation Oncology	UPMC Whitfield	2025*	212	207	97.6%

* 2025 contains data from January - Jun 2025

** Met value includes patients who were out of target by reason of personal choice

Total = The number of patients who completed radical treatment for primary cancer

Met = The number who commenced treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat

Percent = Met** / Total

Please note the following caveats when interpreting Table 2 data:

- Each patient is prioritised for commencement of their course of radiation therapy by their consultant radiation oncologist. Category 1 patients are prioritised and usually are seen as soon as possible. All patients receive treatment within clinically appropriate timeframes.

- The data collected is for radically treated patients only. The data does not include patients treated with palliative intent or patients who are treated for benign (non-cancerous) conditions.
- The data is collected retrospectively. The data is collected for a patient when that patient completes their course of radiation treatment.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Bonas

Assistant National Director
National Cancer Control Programme