



Paul McAuliffe, TD
Fianna Fáil
Leinster House
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Dublin 2

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09 July 2025

Re: PQ 34883/25 - To ask the Minister for Health to provide waiting lists and times for ten-day emergency oncology appointments at the Mater Hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

Data on number of patients waiting and waiting times are not collected by the NCCP. The national KPI data that is collected refers to the rapid access assessment services and measures the number of patients who were seen within the recommended timeframes.

Rapid access assessment services, including Rapid Access Lung Clinics (RALC) and Rapid Access for Symptomatic Breast Disease (SBD) Clinics are in operation in the Mater Hospital. They provide a streamlined pathway to diagnostic evaluation and specialist review for these 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 triaged as urgent by the cancer centre who attended a **symptomatic breast disease clinic (SBD)**; and of those the number who attended or were offered an appointment to attend within 10 working days of the date of receipt of the referral.
- The number of patients who attended a **rapid access lung clinic (RALC)**; and of those the number who attended or were offered an appointment to attend within 10 working days of the date of receipt of the referral.
- This data is provided for the Mater Hospital for the timeframe covering 2024 and 2025 (Jan - May).

Table 1: Symptomatic breast disease (SBD) clinic

Hospital	Year	The number of patients triaged as urgent by the cancer centre who attended a symptomatic breast clinic (SBD)	The number of patients that attended or received an appointment to attend within 10 working days
Mater	2024	3551	1037
Mater	2025*	1382	355

* 2025 contains data from January - May 2025

Table 2: Rapid access lung clinic (RALC)

Hospital	Year	The number of patients who attended a Rapid Access Lung Clinic (RALC)	The number of patients that attended or received an appointment to attend within 10 working days
Mater	2024	523	522
Mater	2025*	255	255

* 2025 contains data from January - May 2025

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Bonas

Assistant National Director
National Cancer Control Programme