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**PQ No: 9239/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the current number and waiting times for each radiation oncology unit, in tabular form - Peadar Tóibín.**

Dear Deputy

The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) collects limited data on radiation oncology. Data on number of patients waiting and waiting times are not collected nationally for each radiation oncology unit. The national KPI data that is collected is the number of patients undergoing radical radiotherapy treatment who commence treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat (RTT) by the radiation oncologist. In 2024, the national compliance with this KPI was 72.8%.

**The following mitigation measures are in place:**

- The NCCP's Radiation Oncology Working Group (ROWG) and Capacity Groups meet approximately every month. "National Updates" is a specific agenda item at this meeting that focuses on staff deficits, KPI performance and mitigations.
- An incentivised over-time service is utilised in each of the public RT departments.
- Public Radiotherapy centres out-source selected patients based on clinical indications to private radiotherapy facilities.
- Hypofractionation (reduced number of treatments in a course of radiation therapy) has been implemented when clinically appropriate in all radiotherapy departments as per national clinical guidelines.
- The equipment in SLRON is old. An equipment replacement programme is underway for SLRON as well as a major expansion of the facilities at the Beaumont Centre located on the site at Beaumont Hospital.
- New radiation oncology centres are opened in Cork and in Galway.
- The National Radiation Therapist Review Report was completed in 2024. Recommendations of this review include opportunities to improve staff recruitment and retention, including for example the implementation of new roles such as advanced practice and aide roles and reviewing the grading structure for the Radiation Therapists profession e.g. seniors and director of R.T.

Yours sincerely,

**Fiona Bonas**  
**Assistant National Director**