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**PQ 24960/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide data regarding waiting time for cancer diagnostics, by CHO area, for 2024 and to date in 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Nolan,

The HSE does not collate national data on waiting time for cancer diagnostics. The HSE National Cancer Control Programme reports on access to rapid access clinics, where assessment may include diagnostics as indicated – e.g. mammography in a breast clinic or bronchoscopy at a rapid access lung clinic, plus biopsies of any suspicious areas. The HSE also reports on the number of new people waiting greater than 4 weeks for access to an urgent colonoscopy (an exam used to detect changes or abnormalities in the large intestine (colon) and rectum), which in many cases is requested due to a suspicion of bowel cancer. These data are reported by hospital and published at

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/performance-reports/>

It is worth noting that the initial investigation of cancer symptoms often commences with the GP. GP Access to Community X-Ray, CT, MRI is available to the full adult patient population of Ireland via private providers. GP access to Community Ultrasound is available to adult patients with a medical card, GP visit card, or Health Amendment Act (HAA) card via private providers. Both schemes aim to support early diagnosis of disease, improve patient experience, and reduce hospital referrals.

Yours sincerely,

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