



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

Email: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

30th September 2025

Re:

PQ 52607/25 - 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 2 weeks for urgent referrals.

PQ 52608/25 - 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 52609/25 - 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 52611/25 - 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 (plus one associated centre for breast in Letterkenny University Hospital) and provide a streamlined pathway to diagnostic evaluation and specialist review for these three 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 number of patients attending the rapid access assessment services and the proportion attending within the recommended timeframe are given as follows:

Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinics triaged as Urgent	Target	2025 Jan-Jun	2024
New Attendances to Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinics triaged as Urgent	*	14,379	28,050
New Attendances to symptomatic breast disease clinics triaged as Urgent seen within 10 working days of referral	95%	66.9%	76.4%

Lung Rapid Access Clinics	Target	2025 Jan-Jun	2024
New Attendances to Rapid Access Lung Clinics	*	2,775	5,014
New Attendances to Rapid Access Lung Clinics within 10 working days of referral	95%	97.9%	92.5%

Prostate Rapid Access Clinics	Target	2025 Jan-Jun	2024
New Attendances to Rapid Access Prostate Clinics	*	2,961	5,180
New Attendances to Rapid Access Prostate Clinics within 20 working days of referral	90%	83.7%	74.9%

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Bonas

Assistant National Director
National Cancer Control Programme