

**Deputy Denis Naughten**  
**Houses of the Oireachtas**  
**Kildare St**  
**Dublin 2.**

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

**PQ Number:** 24384/20

**PQ Question:** *“To ask the Minister for Health when the CT scanner at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe will be replaced; the number of times that it has not been functioning in the past 12 months; the period of time on each occasion; the alternatives presently in place at the hospital for CT scans; the cost of the alternative in the past 12 months; when the present scanner was installed; the date the warranty expired; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.*

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Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of representations in relation to the above PQ which was submitted to the Minister for Health.

The CT Scanner at Portiuncula is due for replacement under the National Equipment Replacement Programme and is scheduled to be replaced in 2022. In 2019 the CT Scanner was down 7 times and to date in 2020 it has been down on 3 times.

**2019**

February - 72 hours

August - 30 hours

October - 12 hours

December- 4 hours

**2020**

February - 4 hours

April - 48 hours

September - 144 hours

On three other occasions the scanner had faults that were diagnosed remotely and fixed remotely and these outages lasted in total 50 hours.

.....*PQ reply 24384/20 continued*

Urgent CT scans are transferred to Galway University Hospital. They are transferred by ambulance and there is no associated costs with scanning or ambulance transfers.

The present scanner was installed in 2007 and the warranty expired 31.12.2017.

I trust that this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. James Keane,**  
**General Manager.**