

31st January 2023

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

PQ Number: 3873/23

Representative Question: To ask the Minister for Health when the provision of bone density scans was first suspended in Portiuncula University Hospital, Ballinasloe; the reason they were suspended; if any patients on the waiting list were referred to other hospitals for the scans during this period; the number of people currently on the waiting list; the amount of time they have been waiting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denis Naughten

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 query.

The provision of bone density scans was first suspended in Portiuncula University Hospital, Ballinasloe, on 02/09/2020.

The reason DEXA scans were suspended was due to Equipment Failure and Reconfiguration of the Fluoroscopy Suite. The DEXA scanner will be replaced under the National Equipment Replacement Programme and delivery is expected in March 2023.

90 patients on the waiting list were referred to other hospitals for the scans during this period. The number of people currently on the waiting list stands on 26/01/2023 at 968.

The amount of time they have been waiting:

0-3 weeks	3-6 weeks	6-13 weeks	13-26 weeks	26-52 weeks	52-78 weeks	78 weeks +
13	3	25	38	98	133	658

I trust that this clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. James Keane
General Manager