

Question on Notice
No. 580
Asked on 17 April 2007

MRS SCOTT asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

How successful has Logan Hospital been in reducing surgery waiting lists and what increase has there been in staffing levels?

ANSWER:

Logan Hospital has been successful in reducing waiting lists for surgery. The Hospital has had a 19.4% decrease in the average number of patients on waiting lists between July 2006–March 2007 and July 2005–March 2006. The surgical specialities with the greatest waiting list decrease have been general surgery and gynaecology. Ear, nose and throat surgery has experienced the largest increase in throughput.

This has been achieved through an increase in surgical activity which has required 25-30 additional staff to be employed in the Hospital.

To give you an example of the impact that this has had in one area, I would like to discuss the impact in the Operating Theatre. The Hospital has added 10 extra operating theatre sessions to the operating theatre timetable since July 2005. Each session requires the presence of three nurses (minimum two registered nurses with either an enrolled nurse or an anaesthetic technician), an operating consultant and a registrar as well as a consultant and registrar from anaesthetics. A wards person is also required for every two sessions. The extra operating room sessions, translates into an additional 75 'shifts'. It is estimated that this equates to approximately 25–30 FTE.