

13 December 2022

## Lap Chole surgery

- **Why Lap Chole surgery or procedures were outsourced to Blackrock Clinic in Dublin and not carried out within Belfast Trust or within private organisations within the North.**

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy surgery and other surgical procedures are carried within the Belfast Trust. However, currently the Trust does not have enough capacity to address current waiting lists for a range of procedures including laparoscopic cholecystectomy. The Trust has received some additional funding from the Department of Health to help reduce waiting lists. The Trust accesses some capacity from independent sector providers in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland in order to help to reduce current waiting lists and this has included laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedures at Blackrock Clinic.

- **I would like to know when this was put out to tender ie. date, month and response closing date.**

The Trust continues to allocate contracts to providers as direct awards, in order to help reduce current waiting lists, until such times as the procurement process for elective services is taken forward which is the Elective Care Procedures and Diagnostic Services Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System. Stage 1 of that procurement process was published via eTendersNI on 12th February 2021 with stage 2 pending until further notice.