

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
 Office of Head of Primary Care
 HSE Community Services Building
 Rathass
 Tralee
 Co. Kerry
 V92 YA25

Tel: 066-7184516

Email: Teresa.ODonovan2@hse.ie

30th March 2020

Michael McGrath, TD
 Dáil Éireann,
 Dublin 2

PQ ref 2572/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients in each of the two locations in Cork city that attended a service (details supplied) in each of the years 2016 to 2019; the number of general practitioners that have worked in the service in the period; the plans of the HSE for the development of the service; if his attention has been drawn to the pressure the service is under; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details Supplied: SouthDoc out of hours GP service in Cork City across two locations - Cork City (Blackpool) and Cork City (Southside / Kinsale road).

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

SouthDoc is an Out of Hours (OOH) family doctor service for urgent medical needs in Cork and Kerry. It has a membership of over 500 GPs and a network of 26 treatment centres of which eight are overnight facilities and supported by a fleet of 21 vehicles which are fully equipped for home visit situations. It provides a service to the population of approximately 665,000 in addition to the 3.3 million annual visitors to the area

The number of patients in each of the two specified locations that attended a service in each of the years 2016 to 2019 is outlined below and there are approximately 204-209 doctors in the City.

Year	Blackpool	SouthSide
2016	28,447	43,477
2017	26,684	42,410
2018	26,469	42,657
2019	26,233	42,145

The provision of GP services is operating in the context of a chronic shortage of doctors throughout the country. This is exacerbated by the fact that many doctors find it extremely difficult to work in the out of hours setting due to the increasing demands placed on them in their daytime surgery. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) and SouthDoc had agreed to carry out a review of services to plan for a financially sustainable model that will ensure the future provision of a high quality out of hour's service in CKCH. However, due to the Covid 19 emergency this review is currently on hold.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Teresa O' Donovan
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare