



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2.

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine  
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan  
An Ceantar Theas  
An Bothar Mileata  
Cill Mhaighneann  
BÁC 8

Acute Operations  
Health Service Executive  
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building  
Heuston South Quarter  
Military Road  
Kilmainham  
Dublin 8.

***PQ 207040/20 \*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that saw a consultant, by type, in the first eight months of 2020; the number and breakdown for same in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter\****

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

In response to your query, there was a significant reduction in all scheduled care activity across all Acute Services including outpatient clinics, inpatient and day case procedures this is in line with the National Action Plan on COVID-19 (page 20).

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/47b727-government-publishes-national-action-plan-on-covid-19/>

The reduction in activity was to ensure patient safety and that all appropriate resources, both physical and human, are made available for COVID-19 related activity. Time-critical essential work continues throughout the system in line with the National Action Plan, Clinical Programme and World Health Organisation recommendations.

Arising from the NPHET decision in early May regarding resumption of services and aligned with the roadmap for reopening society and business, Phase 1 <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ad5dd0-easing-the-covid-19-restrictions-on-may-18-phase-1/#health-and-social-care>, interim guidance has been developed in the context of scheduled care for the resumption of services This guidance has been approved by the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) and has been issued to all hospital groups/hospitals to support the resumption of patient treatment.

There has been a continued increase in overall OPD activity since May 2020. Working within the guidance, ensuing patient and staff safety adds additional constraints on services and it has a rate limiting effect however figures for July and August exceeding 90% of 2019

average OPD consultations. In addition there has been a considerable focus on virtual outpatient consultations, in total since March 2020 423,854 virtual consultations have been reported as taking place since the onset of COVID-19. The HSE also continues to work closely with the NTPF, commissioning OPD activity for patients, particularly those in long waiting categories and through validation to ensure that all resources are best utilised.

Please see attached table containing the data requested, showing 2019 total figures 2019 Jan to Aug (inclusive) and 2020 Jan to August (inclusive) for comparison purposes.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Kidd', written in a cursive style.

---

**Robert Kidd**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Acute Operations**

Speciality	2019 Total Figures	January to August 2019	January to August 2020
Accident and Emergency	13102	8996	6271
Anaesthetic Pre Assessment Clinic	548	363	119
Anaesthetics	17146	11605	7325
Breast Surgery	12392	8251	6819
Cardiology	112370	76131	64282
Cardio-Thoracic Surgery	8425	5533	4578
Chemical Pathology	699	502	416
Child/Adolescent Psychiatry	37	37	
Clinical (Medical) Genetics	1828	1255	684
Clinical Immunology	6824	4432	3832
Clinical Neurophysiology	2814	1923	1517
Colposcopy Clinic	13078	9015	4521
Dental Surgery	2050	1309	963
Dermatology	109551	73821	64761
Detox	16	10	
Diabetes Mellitus	22845	15033	15359
Diabetic Day Centre	8338	5780	7133
Endocrinology	84562	55964	53107
Fetal Assessment	28013	18439	19306
Gastro-Enterology	91542	61267	55880
Gastro-Intestinal Surgery	2074	1396	953
General Medicine	154919	104005	76699
General Surgery	265243	176815	135756
Genito-Urinary Medicine	22184	14815	15546
Geriatric Medicine	48654	32275	26953
Gynaecology	127521	84906	69190
Haematology	103636	69908	58599
Hepato-Biliary Surgery	25	14	71
Histopathology	61	61	
Immunology	1218	696	1036
Infectious Diseases	24024	15829	16354
Maxillofacial	23196	15653	9607
Mental Handicap	541	350	330
Metabolic Medicine	3155	2136	1772
Microbiology	11	11	8
Neonatology	8426	5487	4277
Nephrology	66886	44596	35833
Neurology	63260	42402	39757
Neurosurgery	12578	8441	6740

Not designated to specific specialties	5212	3368	2781
Obstetrics	377515	253792	238566
Occupational Medicine			1503
Old Age Psychiatry	15	15	
Oncology	83627	55312	59938
Ophthalmology	192058	127612	82059
Oral Surgery	4294	2862	2111
Orthopaedics	355872	239800	175442
Other	40393	27693	15841
Otolaryngology (ENT)	118984	78851	62302
Paed Oncology	1026	542	755
Paediatric A/E Medicine	116	86	45
Paediatric Anaesthetics	80	50	30
Paediatric Cardiology	7249	3928	5351
Paediatric Clinical Neurophysiology	115	87	22
Paediatric Cystic Fibrosis	435	291	1282
Paediatric Dentistry	199	145	148
Paediatric Dermatology	5752	3361	4892
Paediatric Diabetes	748	592	374
Paediatric Endocrinology	4954	2836	6501
Paediatric ENT	3232	1856	1641
Paediatric Gastro-Enterology	2532	1455	2148
Paediatric- General Medicine	2310	1545	1604
Paediatric- General Surgery	5528	3381	2646
Paediatric Haematology	2689	1481	2131
Paediatric Infectious Diseases	607	350	447
Paediatric Metabolic Medicine	27		6
Paediatric Nephrology	1141	648	564
Paediatric Neurology	3164	2198	2751
Paediatric Neurosurgery	47	39	9
Paediatric Ophthalmology	345	202	114
Paediatric- Orthopaedics	13704	8046	9052
Paediatric Respiratory Medicine	3836	2421	2555
Paediatric Urology	1092	574	1010
Paediatrics	109562	71907	65647
Paediatrics Development	1446	981	953
Pain Relief	22972	15151	11795
Palliative Medicine	3634	2477	2051
Pathology	175	118	81
Plastic Surgery	75112	49703	37573
Psychiatry	19901	13197	14660
Public Health Medicine			30
Radiation Oncology	31977	21484	21038
Radiology	437	291	240
Radiotherapy	21106	13608	13290

Rehabilitation Medicine	467	294	557
Respiratory Medicine	77781	51592	44176
Rheumatology	72399	47887	46840
Substance abuse			13
Tropical	355	253	78
Ultrasound Clinic	11714	7982	15262
Urodynamics Continence Promotion	178	116	67
Urology	84014	55074	51528
Vascular Surgery	42560	28452	21560
Warfarin	76437	52310	41240
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,354,919</b>	<b>2,237,760</b>	<b>1,891,658</b>

**Data Source: BIU 2020**