



Géaroibríochtaí
Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, An Bóthar
Míleata Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

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Date: 9th December 2021

Deputy Bernard Durkin TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 59759/21 To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which surgery is readily available for the removal of cataracts in this jurisdiction; the number of such surgical interventions undertaken here in the past twelve months; his plans to extend this service in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkin,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

Cataract Surgery is currently performed in 14 locations around the country. The table below outlines the numbers of such procedures carried out in 2020 based on data from the Hospital Pricing Office relating to discharges from acute public hospitals. Please note that this data is based on hospitalisations which may include multiple admissions for the same patient and that cataract procedures have been identified using the Australian Classification of Health Interventions procedure codes.

Hospital Group	Hospital	Discharge Count
Ireland East	Mater	1,123
Ireland East	St Vincent's	330
Ireland East	Eye and Ear	3,068

Ireland East Total		4,521
RCSI Group	Beaumont	36
RCSI Group	Louth	213
RCSI Group Total		249
Children's Group	Crumlin	16
Children's Group	Temple Street	28
Children's Group Total		44
South Southwest	Waterford	555
South Southwest	South Infirmary-Victoria	884
South Southwest Total		1,439
UL Group	Limerick	653
UL Group	Nenagh	618
UL Group Total		1,271
Saolta	UCHG	466
Saolta	Letterkenny	44
Saolta	Sligo	1,091
Saolta Total		1,601
National Total		9,125

As we head towards 2022 significant funding has been identified through the estimates process to support access to care. The HSE is working with Hospital Groups to ensure that available additional funding is targeted at access to care for patients where care delivery has been affected by the Pandemic.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations