



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.

20th December 2022

Deputy Bernard Durkan,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 61629/22 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; the plans to extend this service in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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.

Response:

The Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology is currently working closely with the HSE on the development of a new cataract pathway. This pathway will see all pre and post assessment completed by existing and newly established eye teams based in community, with overall governance sitting with the acute hospital in line with the model of care. It is expected that this will significantly speed up the access process and free capacity in the acute sector to perform cataract correction surgeries. This pathway has commenced implementation with first activity expected in 2023.

Cataract Surgery is currently performed in 14 locations around the country. The table below outlines the numbers of such procedures carried out in 2021 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.

Table 1. Total number of discharges reported to HIPE from acute public hospitals in 2021

Hospital Group	Hospital	Discharge Count
Ireland East	Eye and Ear	3,568
Ireland East	Mater	1,099
Ireland East	St Vincents	466
Ireland East Total		5,133
RCSI Group	Beaumont	34
RCSI Group	Louth	195
RCSI Group Total		229
Children's Group	Crumlin	14
Children's Group	Temple Street	11
Children's Group Total		25
South Southwest	South Inf-Victoria	1,009
South Southwest	Waterford	565
South Southwest Total		1,574
UL Group	Limerick	869
UL Group	Nenagh	765
UL Group Total		1,634
Saolta	Letterkenny	88
Saolta	Sligo	1,497
Saolta	UCHG	514
Saolta Total		2,099
National Total		10,694

Yours sincerely,



Trish King
Assistant National Director
Acute Operations