



21st February 2022

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 8429/22

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of consultants currently employed throughout the health services; the extent to which this compares with international norms per thousand of the population; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

The data contained in this response is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 18 February 2022. DIME is dependent on clinical sites inputting details on their consultant workforce and therefore there may be variances and gaps in the data supplied to that held within clinical sites. As DIME is a live system it must be noted that there can be variances in the figures published dependent on the run date of the report as entries can be made with a retrospective date.

As at 18 February 2022, there were 3,697 consultants employed in the publicly funded health system in Ireland.

A comparison of international consultant workforces across a number of international jurisdictions was compiled by HSE NDTP in Quarter 1 2021. At the time, Ireland had 69 consultants per 100,000 of the population. This compared with an estimated 93 in England; 101 in Scotland; 90 in Wales; 101 in Northern Ireland and 133 in Australia. The total per head of population consultant workforce in the UK was 94 per 100,000. All estimates are based on best available data as at January 2021 and across comparable international jurisdictions in terms of both service delivery and training models – as well as population in some cases.

A more comprehensive breakdown with sources is available in the attached. Since the compilation of this table the per head of population ratio for Ireland has increased to 71, based on a higher than average level of consultant recruitment through 2021.

The table below provides the total number of consultants currently employed throughout the HSE by Medical Discipline;

Medical Discipline	Total
Anaesthesiology	422
Emergency Medicine	135
Intensive Care Medicine	37
Medicine	947
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	186
Paediatrics	241
Pathology	302
Psychiatry	507
Radiology	320
Surgery	600
Total	3697

Yours sincerely,



Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director