



Our Ref: PQ 40754/22

17th August 2022

Deputy Darren O'Rourke
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy O'Rourke

I refer to your recent PQ which has been forwarded to me for attention. Firstly, please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in issuing a response.

PQ: To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultant paediatric ophthalmologist working in the public health services; his plans to expand this number; the international recommended best practice ratios for paediatric ophthalmologist surgeons to population and current ratios.

Childrens Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

I have followed up with Children's Health Ireland (CHI) and set out here-under the information that you require.

Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) numbers for Ophthalmology Consultants at CHI at Crumlin

Donal Brosnahan	Ophthalmology	0.45
Kathryn McCreery	Ophthalmology	0.44
Sarah Chamney	Ophthalmology	0.36
Total	Ophthalmology	1.25

WTE numbers for Ophthalmology Consultants at CHI at Temple Street

Ian Flitcroft	Ophthalmology	0.38
Sarah Chamney	Ophthalmology	0.41
Stephen Farrell	Ophthalmology	0.55
Claire Hartnett	Ophthalmology	0.42
Susan Fitzsimon	Ophthalmology	0.09
Total	Ophthalmology	1.85



I can advise that there is no paediatric Ophthalmologist in CHI at Tallaght. Service there is covered by adult consultant's providing some part of service under SLA with Tallaght University Hospital.

Please see data below on international surgical specialities from the HSE National Doctors Training and Planning report.

Table 6.1 Comparison of Ireland with international jurisdictions
Total ratio per 100,000 of the Population

Specialty	Ireland	England	Scotland	Australia	New Zealand	Canada
Population used for calculations	4.8 m	55.9 m	5.4 m	23.9 m	4.7 m	37 m
Emergency Medicine	2.2	3.7	4.5	5.7	5.1	
Anaesthesiology	9.5	12.4	14.4	16.8	16.4	
Intensive Care Medicine	0.48	1.15	0.34	2.4	1.82	
Total Anaesthesiology and ICM	9.98	13.55	14.74	19.2	18.22	
General Practice	71	76	82.4	114	73.6	
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	3.8	4.6	4.7	6.6	6.2	
Paediatrics	5.4	7.1	5.8	6.4	7.9	
Psychiatry	9.8	9.6*	10.9	12.3	12	
Pathology	5.3	5.2	6.2	5	6.1	
Radiology	6	6.2	6.4	7.4	9.7	
Radiation Oncology**	0.6	-	-	1.3	-	1.5
Occupational Medicine	1.5	-	-	0.8	1.2	
Public Health Medicine	1.8	Not Comparable	2	1.5	3.7	
Ophthalmology – Medical	1.9	-	-	3.6	2.9	

* Figure for Psychiatry in England comes from the Royal college of Psychiatrists 2019 workforce census available at <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/docs/default-source/improving-care/workforce/workforce-census-report-2019.pdf>

** Radiation Oncology is comparable with Australia and Canada but not the other countries, this is because of differences in the service delivery models

*** Public Health is not comparable with England because of differences in how specialists are employed



Table 6.3 Comparison of Ireland with international jurisdictions (Surgical Specialties)
Total ratio per 100,000 of the Population

Specialty	Ireland	England	Scotland	Australia	New Zealand
Cardiothoracic Surgery	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
General Surgery	4.3	4.5	5.2	5.5	5.7
General • Vascular	4.9	-	-	-	-
Neurosurgery	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.5
Ophthalmic Surgery	1.4	2.6	2.4	-	2.9
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5

Sources of International Data:

- NHS England (2019)- NHS Workforce Statistics September 2019 available from: <https://files.digital.nhs.uk/5B/6F/CE/IC/NHS%20Workforce%20Statistics%20September%202019%20Doctors%20by%20Grade%20and%20Specialty.xlsx> and <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/general-and-personal-medical-services>
- NHS Scotland (2019): <https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Publications/data-tables2017.asp?id=2484#2484> and <https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/General-Practice/Publications/2018-03-06/2018-03-06-PCWS2017-Report.pdf> (GP-data)
- Australia - Health Workforce Australia Medical practitioners overview 2015 data tables available from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/health-welfare-services/workforce/data>
- NZ- New Zealand Medical Workforce 2016 database available from: <https://www.health.govt.nz/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

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