



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohifigeach Cliniciúil
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens, D08 W2A8
R: clinicaldesign@hse.ie

Clinical Design & Innovation; Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
Dr Steevens' Hospital, D08 W2A8
E: clinicaldesign@hse.ie

25th May, 2022

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 23532/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of cardiac physiologists; the number of heart failure units that have access to a dedicated cardiac physiologist; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O' Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Heart Programme (NHP) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

There are currently 254 Cardiac Physiologists (across various grades) employed in the HSE. Based on a survey carried out by the former National Clinical Programme for Heart Failure in 2018, we are only aware of one heart failure unit with a dedicated Cardiac Physiologist. A review carried out by the Heart Failure Sub-Group of the National Heart Programme Clinical Advisory Group (NHP CAG) in 2021 found echocardiography services are available to all heart failure services nationally.

An additional 32 Senior Cardiac Physiologists have been funded nationally, to provide direct access to echocardiography. This is an additional layer of specialist support to GPs for the management of patients with heart failure in the community. This additional resource will support implementation of the Integrated Model of Care for the Prevention and Management of Chronic Disease in the thirty Chronic Disease Community Specialist Teams, being established through the HSE Enhanced Community Care Programme (ECCP).

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan
General Manager