



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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NCO Ref: S0045-NCO-22

PQ53073/22 - To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the lack of optometrists working in primary care nationwide; the action that he will take to increase the resources for these roles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Malcolm Noonan

Dear Deputy Noonan,

I refer to the above PQ received in our office for response.

Please find attached list of Optometrists currently contracted to provide Primary Care Services in the HSE broken down by CHO area. There are currently 608 in total practising in Ireland with no decrease in Optometrists in the last 4 years. In some CHO areas private optometrists are contracted to provide primary eye care services in order to reduce waiting lists.

The HSE Primary Care Eye Services Review Report which was launched in 2017 provides a blueprint for the re-organisation of and investment in primary care eye services and will enable an increased emphasis on maximising the capacity of primary care eye services.

Community Healthcare Organisation	Optometrists
CHO Area 1	70
CHO Area 2	76
CHO Area 3	50
CHO Area 4	81
CHO Area 5	72
CHO Area 6	46
CHO Area 7	74
CHO Area 8	73
CHO Area 9	66
National	608

Yours sincerely,

Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contracts