



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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20th April 2023

Deputy Murphy,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 18044/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE consultant ophthalmologists with a special interest in strabismus working in the public health services in 2022 and to-date in 2023, in tabular form.

- Catherine Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 18044/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Vision screening in Ireland is carried out under the guidance of Best Health for Children Revisited, the national screening and surveillance programme of the HSE. Screening checks are conducted to assess visual acuity, to identify medical conditions that may impact on eye health and to detect the presence of visual defects such as amblyopia, strabismus and refractive error. Children who fail the childhood vision and surveillance checks are referred into the HSE community service or the acute service as appropriate. Their care is provided by ophthalmologists, orthoptists, optometrists and nurses.

The HSE does not routinely collate specific data on the numbers of consultant ophthalmologists with a special interest in strabismus nationally.

For your convenience, I have attached a link to the National Health Sector Workforce Employment Report for February 2023 which provides the most up to date information on staffing levels across all grades of staff including Consultants in the health service:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/health-sector-employment-report-february-20231.pdf>

Information pertaining to more specific areas can be found at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/>, which is broken down by Community Health Organisation, Hospital Group, etc.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations