



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta  
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &  
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

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**Deputy David Cullinane**

**Dáil Eireann,**

**Leinster House,**

**Dublin 2.**

**17<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**PQ35038/23 - To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of GPs providing an out-of-hours care service for the years 2018 to date, broken down by year and by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

General Practitioners who hold General Medical Service Scheme Contracts with the HSE are required under their contracts to make suitable arrangements to enable contact to be made with them or their locums/deputies during out-of-hours periods for urgent cases. Prior to the emergence of GP Out-of-Hours Co-Ops, GPs discharged their out-of-hours obligations through Rota arrangements with other GPs in their community or in some cases through a single-handed arrangement.

3,116 GPs provides out of Hours services nationally which includes circa 570 GPs who, while not holding a GMS contract, do hold other publicly funded health sector contracts with the HSE. (Table 1)

The HSE acknowledges the valuable role that GP Out of Hours Co-Ops have made and continue to make in enhancing the quality and accessibility of GP Out of Hours Services across the country in sustaining this important point of contact for the population in the face of increasing demands on all of our public health services, both in-hours and out-of-hours.

I trust this is of assistance.

**Yours sincerely,**

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**Geraldine Crowley,**

**Assistant National Director,**

**Enhanced Community Care Programme &**

**Primary Care Contracts**



Table 1.

Community Healthcare Organisation	*** No of General Practitioners				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 up to July 2023
CHO Area 1	234	230	234	233	238
CHO Area 2	317	321	316	313	317
CHO Area 3	249	250	256	260	259
CHO Area 4	472	475	477	481	474
CHO Area 5	295	302	311	308	314
CHO Area 6	288	310	319	320	319
CHO Area 7	397	415	424	430	441
CHO Area 8	333	338	338	338	339
CHO Area 9	386	393	408	408	415
<b>National</b>	<b>2971</b>	<b>3034</b>	<b>3083</b>	<b>3091</b>	<b>3116</b>

\*\*\*Please note that the attached data includes GPs not contracted to the GMS Scheme but who are registered to provide services under the Primary Childhood Immunisation Scheme, Maternity & Infant, the Health (Amendment) Act 1996, Heartwatch, Methadone Treatment Scheme and National Cancer Screening Service