

17th July, 2023

Mr. Pat Buckley., T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 35420/23**

**"To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown, in tabular form, of the funding provided for SouthDoc out-of-hours services in the east Cork area for the year 2021"**

Dear Deputy Buckley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

South West Doctors on Call Limited is an Out of Hours Family Doctor service for urgent medical care in Counties Cork and Kerry with its administrative headquarters and call centre in Killarney, Co Kerry. It has a membership of over 500 GPs and a network of 26 treatment centres of which eight are overnight and supported by a fleet of 19 vehicles, which are fully equipped for home visit situations.

SouthDoc provides a medical service to a population of approximately 736,000 in addition to the 3.3M visitors to the area, and dealt with over 231,000 patient contacts in 2022.

SouthDoc, like all agencies funded by the HSE through a Section 39 Service Arrangement (SA), provide services to the HSE based on the terms agreed within the SA which are agreed on an annual basis. The SA sets out the terms of engagement between the HSE and the agency which is recognised as the 'Provider' of services, and the quantum of services to be delivered by the Provider and the funding which the HSE will pay to the Provider for provision of such services.

Southdoc are funded by the HSE to provide Out of Hours Services for Cork and Kerry region and as such funding is not broken down into smaller geographical areas within the region.

As a service provider funded by the HSE pursuant to Section 39 of the Health Act 2004 South West Doctors on Call Company Limited by Guarantee receives an annual funding allocation for the provision of the above out of hours service.

<b>The annual funding allocation provided by the HSE to SouthDoc for 2021, is as follows:</b>	<b>Allocation €</b>
2021	€7,513,800

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mari O'Donovan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a distinct 'O'.

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**Mari O'Donovan**  
**Acting Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**