

26th July, 2023

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

PQ ref 35423/23

"To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of figures relating to the use of SouthDoc out-of-hours services in Fermoy in the past five years respectively including 2023."

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 treatment centres supported by a fleet of 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.

The following table outlines the volume of patients accessing the SouthDoc out of hours service in Fermoy, Co Cork for the past five years to date:

The annual activity in the Fermoy Treatment Centre for the years 2019-2023 is as follows:	Activity
2019	11,634
2020	7,368
2021	11,861
2022	13,516
2023 July YTD	7,062

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

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

