



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Sean Sherlock  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023

***PQ 12584/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of appointments offered for genetic counselling, by hospital setting in each of the years 2019 to 2022, and to date in 2023, in tabular form; and the number of appointments that were met and missed. -Sean Sherlock***

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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.

I have been advised that genetic counselling (GC) services are offered from the following hospitals:

- Childrens Health Ireland
- The Rotunda Hospital
- Mater Misericordiae University Hospital – Ophthalmology and Metabolic
- The National Maternity Hospital Holles Street – this service is provided by a Consultant Geneticist\*\*
- St. James Hospital – Cancer

Genetic counselling is not always provided by a genetic counsellor, it can also be provided by a Consultant Geneticist.

In relation to the number of appointments offered for genetic counselling, please see details below:

### Childrens Health Ireland

Department of Clinical Genetics CHI at Crumlin					
Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 YTD
Appointments offered	3659	3422	3798	5476	1585
Appointments attended	2752	2595	3166	4288	1293
DNA (as % of appointments)	263 (8.7%)	186 (6.6%)	262 (7.6%)	465 (9.7%)	129 (9%)

Appointments noted above include both Consultant Geneticist clinics and Genetic Counsellor clinics.

### RCSI Hospital Group

Since late 2022, the Rotunda Hospital has a genetic counselling service with 26 appointments held to date.

### Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG)

Please see below in respect of Mater Hospital

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Appointments Offered</b>	115	75	144	187	50
<b>Attended</b>	88	69	120	118	42
<b>Patient Cancelled</b>	16	3	19	41	32
<b>DNA</b>	11	3	5	28	6

In addition, with the IEHG there are a number of specialties within St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH), which facilitate genetic testing for patients. They are endeavoring to identify the scale and range of counselling that may be in place to support patients undergoing such testing. Whilst there are no specific scheduled clinics or Psychological programmes in place for these patients, the Psychology Department is currently engaging with the Irish Cancer Society in relation to a pilot programme for high familial risk patients which has commenced in SVUH.

Please see attached in respect of The National Maternity Hospital.

### Dublin Midlands Hospital Group

Please see below in respect St. James' Hospital.

Hospital	Appointment Type	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
		Appt Offered	Appt Met	Appt Missed	Appt Offered	Appt Met	Appt Missed	Appt Offered	Appt Met	Appt Missed	Appt Offered	Appt Met	Appt Missed	Appt Offered	Appt Met	Appt Missed
St James's Hospital - Cancer Genetics Service	New	1523	1371	230	991	824	220	1702	1,617	223	1128	1,026	185	323	293	31
	Return	*295	242	41	*245	234	62	*766	1,081	134	919	927	158	382	336	55
	Total	1818	**1613	271	1236	**1058	282	2468	**2698	357	2047	**1953	343	705	**629	86

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**

