



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta  
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &  
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
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**Deputy Colm Burke**  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

20<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**24287/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a timeline for the rolling out of post-cataract care by the HSE to its primary eye care clinics; if these clinics have the required resources in place for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

**&**

**24288/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm whether privately owned community optical practices will be included in the rollout of post-cataract care by the HSE to its primary eye care clinics; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Burke,

I refer to your parliamentary question in respect of eye care services, which was passed to the HSE for response.

The model for ophthalmology that the HSE is currently implementing includes the development and expansion of services in the community through the recruitment of multidisciplinary teams, including optometrists working within the HSE as employees. These teams and the optometrists working within them, will be delivering both pre and post operative care to cataract patients and will be involved in the clinical management of patients with other medical conditions such as glaucoma and age related macular degeneration. The first teams are in place in Dublin and recruitment is underway in other areas with the plan to continue to roll out nationally.

Set out below is a summary of the Modernised Care Pathways Programme input to ophthalmology Integrated Eye Teams in 2023, delivering, along with general pathways, the paediatric, medical retina and cataract pathways. All funding is recurrent:

Total funding package (including consumables) of 3.2m

Detail:

Eye Team CHO	Location	Number of WTEs	WTE Description	Recurrent (including consumables) (rounded)	Cost
CHO 4	Ballincollig	6	1 Consultant, 2 Optometrists, 1 Orthoptist, 1 Nurse, 1 Admin	808K	
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	2	2 Optometrists	190k	



CHO 7	Dublin West	2	2 Optometrists	190k
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire		2 Optometrists	190k
CHO 2	Galway, Mayo, Roscommon	3	3 Optometrists, 1 per site	245k
CHO 8	MRH initially	4	1 Consultant, 1 Optometrist, 1 Nurse, 1 Admin	513k

In addition, MCPs has funded 8 specialist registrar posts with a cost of 1.1m in Temple Street, MMUH and RVEEH to support the delivery of an integrated service between these hospitals and the relevant community care area. The Cataract Pathway will enable pre and post assessment and management of patients in the community.

I trust this is of assistance.

**Yours sincerely,**

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**Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Enhanced Community Care Programme &  
Primary Care Contracts**