

Peadar Tóibín TD
Aontú
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

e. peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie

22nd April 2024

Re. PQ13794/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of GP referrals to cancer rapid access clinics, in each of the past ten years and to date in 2024.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The national cancer control programme (NCCP) collates a small subset of aggregate data related to specific tumours and are mostly associated with the monitoring of rapid access cancer assessment services in adults. The rapid access assessment services for Symptomatic Breast Disease (SBD) Clinics, Rapid Access Lung Clinics (RALC) and Rapid Access Prostate Clinics (RAPC) operate in each of the 8 designated cancer centres with one additional breast satellite clinic. It is important to note that these are symptomatic patients who were referred for assessment for suspected cancer, the majority of whom will not be diagnosed with cancer.

Data for annual volume of attendances at each of the rapid access clinics is provided instead of electronic referral data, as on an annual basis over the ten year period from 2014 to 2023 it is more representative of all referrals to rapid access clinics (compared to just those made electronically).

Please find below in tabular format for each of the past ten years: the total number of newly referred patients having first attendance at SBD clinics and triaged as urgent; the total number of newly referred patients having first attendance at SBD clinics and triaged as non-urgent; the total number of newly referred patients having first attendance at RALCs; and the total number of newly referred patients having first attendance at RAPCs.

New Attendances	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
SBD Urgent	15,733	17,255	18,949	19,267	20,482	20,905	20,523	25,380	25,238	25,841
SBD Non-Urgent	23,697	23,061	22,384	21,546	22,390	21,917	17,366	18,595	18,141	18,635
RALC	3,060	3,128	3,247	3,426	3,565	3,606	3,338	3,678	4,360	4,566
RAPC	2,580	2,559	2,582	3,018	3,362	3,822	3,109	3,623	4,693	4,976
Total	45,070	46,003	47,162	47,257	49,799	50,250	44,336	51,276	52,432	54,018

Please note: Data for each of the past ten years 2014 to 2023 inclusive is included. Data for 2024 is incomplete and not included. 2023 data is pending hospital validation and as such is subject to change.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Robert Conway
 SPHM Cancer Intelligence (MCRN 411192)
 National Cancer Control Programme

