



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Mileata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

Office of the National Director Acute
Operations

Unit 4a, The Dargan Building, Heuston
South Quarter, Military Road,
Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 NN9V

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

t 01 795 9971
e acute.operations@hse.ie

11th March 2024

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 9926/24

To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which surgery is readily available for the removal of cataracts in this jurisdiction; the number of such surgical interventions undertaken here in the last twelve months; the plans to extend this service in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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

Response:

A cataract is a clouding in the lens of the eye. It is strongly associated with aging. Cataract extraction surgery is one of the most commonly performed surgeries in Ireland. As the older population expands so too is the demand for increased capacity. The procedure for each eye is performed separately. The procedure is usually done as a day case.

The surgery is performed by an ophthalmologist and the sites that provide the larger volumes of surgical services are outlined below:

- Mater Hospital Dublin
- Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Dublin
- St Vincent's Hospital Dublin
- University Hospital Waterford
- South Infirmary Hospital Cork
- University Hospital Limerick & Nenagh Hospital
- University Hospital Galway
- University Hospital Sligo

An additional cataract theatre has recently opened in Waterford and in the Mater Hospital and a second cataract only theatre will soon open in the Eye & Ear Hospital.



The table below provides a summary of Cataract Surgery that took place in 2022 in all sites nationwide. The excel file attached provides more details in relation to same. 2023 full year information will not be available until later in 2024.

Table 1. 2022 Cataract Surgery

Hospital Group	Hospital	Discharge Count
Ireland East	Mater	1,238
Ireland East	St Vincents	449
Ireland East	Eye and Ear	3,916
Ireland East Total		5,603
RCSI Group	Beaumont	27
RCSI Group	Louth	270
RCSI Group Total		297
Children's Group	Crumlin	13
Children's Group	Temple Street	32
Children's Group Total		45
South Southwest	Waterford	813
South Southwest	South Inf-Victoria	1,124
South Southwest Total		1,937
UL Group	Limerick	1,081
UL Group	Nenagh	958
UL Group Total		2,039
Saolta	UCHG	600
Saolta	Letterkenny	85
Saolta	Sligo	1,822
Saolta Total		2,507
National Total		12,428

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

Trish King
Acute Operations