



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Deputy Denis Naughten  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**PQ29145/24- Deputy Denis Naughten- To ask the Minister for Health the number and location of laboratories within the health service operating genomics services for patients; the number of WTE and grades in each location; the corresponding number of vacancies; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ29146/24- Deputy Denis Naughten- To ask the Minister for Health the total number of genomics samples sent outside the State for analysis in each of the past five years; the annual cost in each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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

At present, information on number and location of laboratories within the health service operating genomics services for patients as well as information on human resources including vacancies within laboratories is not collated centrally by the HSE. Information on the number and cost of samples sent out of the State for genetic testing is not centrally collated either.

However, as part of implementing the National Strategy for Accelerating Genetic and Genomic Medicine in Ireland, the National Genetics and Genomics Office, pending National Service Plan 2025 funding approval, will oversee the setting up of a national central pre- and post-analytical service in 2025. Once fully operational, this service will collect information on the volume and cost of genetic tests being sent abroad.

I am very happy to keep you informed of our progress against this plan and to provide, in the future and pending approval for the setting up of the pre- and post-analytical service, information on the quantity and costs of sending samples abroad for genetic testing.



I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hayden', written in a cursive style.

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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer