



Rochtain agus Imeascadh

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

Access & Integration

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 9972
e acutehospitals@hse.ie

Deputy Roisin Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

2nd August 2024

PQ 32862/24 – To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of the funding provided to long-Covid and post-acute Covid clinics, by clinic and year, in tabular form; and the direct contact hours with long-Covid patients in these clinics.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 wish to advise you that unfortunately it is not possible to provide you with the information as you have requested it. Up to the end of 2023, the service development posts allocated to each Long Covid and Post-Acute clinic, the number of posts onboarded, the full year cost (FYC) of the posts and the funding drawn down were monitored and funded centrally.

You will be aware that operational governance has been delegated to the Health Regions in 2024 and consequently it is not possible to respond in the same way to your request. The Pay and Numbers Strategy 2024 has been approved and provides that all service development posts in place at the end of December 2023 are fully funded within the spend limits and WTE limits for each Region. Each Region has received its own specified number of WTEs and have within that approved WTE and related total pay spend limit, the authority to replace, recruit and prioritise. Therefore, while having regard to national policy and priorities, each Region is empowered to consider and prioritise the use or reallocation of a post once they are within the approved WTE limit and spend limit. Accordingly, the information requested with respect to these posts is not available.

However, Table 1 below details the service development posts allocated to each clinic, and the full year cost (FYC) of the posts as at December 2023.

I wish to advise you that information on the provision of direct patient contact hours for Long Covid patients in the clinics is not collected. However, the Infectious Diseases Clinical Programme has provided an estimation based on the number of patients seen in May 2024 and the opening hours of the clinics. This information is heavily caveated as follows:-

- Some of the clinics operate as combined Long Covid and Post-Acute Clinics.



- Both St Vincent's University Hospital and University Hospital Limerick offer virtual clinic appointments outside of the in-person clinics. These figures are not included when calculating estimated direct patient time due to unknown number of virtual clinic appointments.
- Patient time may vary depending on whether the patient is a new referral or an existing patient.
- The clinic hours below are official hours - it is not possible to determine if these clinic hours were exceeded during the month of May as this information is not recorded.

In this context, the broad estimate gives an average time of 26 minutes per patient based on the May data provided below.

Clinic	Clinic type	Clinic Hours	Total Clinic Hours May 2024	Total Number of patients seen May 2024
Tallaght University Hospital	Combined	11am-3pm every Friday	20	32
Galway University Hospital	Combined	9am-1pm every Monday	16	49
Cork University Hospital	Long Covid	9am-12pm every Tuesday	12	46
St James's Hospital	Combined	1.30pm-4pm every Friday	12.5	29
Beaumont Hospital	Long Covid	9am-2pm every Friday	25	42
University Hospital Limerick	Long Covid	9am-2pm on alternate Mondays	10	9
St. Vincent's University Hospital	Long Covid	2pm-4.30pm every Thursday	12.5	64

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Ivory,
General Manager, Access and Integration



Table 1:
Service development posts allocated & full year costs in 2023 by clinic & clinic type

Clinic Type	Total WTE	FYC per actual WTE €
Long Covid	29.2	4,759,494
Post-Acute Clinic	36.7	3,304,755
Grand Total	65.9	8,064,249

Hospital / Clinic Type	Total WTE	FYC per actual WTE €
Beaumont	4.5	691,761
Long Covid	4.5	691,761
Connolly	4.5	367,448
Post-Acute Clinic	4.5	367,448
Cork	9	1,127,647
Long Covid	4.5	760,199
Post-Acute Clinic	4.5	367,448
Galway	9.9	1,377,016
Long Covid	4.7	686,141
Post-Acute Clinic	5.2	690,875
Letterkenny	4.5	377,925
Post-Acute Clinic	4.5	377,925
MMUH	4.5	367,448
Post-Acute Clinic	4.5	367,448
St. James's	10.8	1,581,268
Long Covid	6.3	1,204,057
Post-Acute Clinic	4.5	377,211
St. Vincent's	4.5	711,161
Long Covid	4.5	711,161
Tallaght	4.5	363,716
Post-Acute Clinic	4.5	363,716
UH Limerick	9.2	1,098,860
Long Covid	4.7	706,175
Post-Acute Clinic	4.5	392,686
Grand Total	65.9	8,064,249

