



1st May 2025

Deputy Joanna Byrne, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 16031/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons presented to out of hours services, such as NEDOC etc, in County Louth in 2024 and to date in 2025, who are currently not registered with a GP in the county – Joanna Byrne

Dear Deputy Byrne,

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 have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

The NEDOC treatment centre in Drogheda serves patients assigned to GP's in Co. Louth with the exception of patients in the Dundalk and Cooley Peninsula Areas. Dealgan Doc is the GP Out of Hours Co-op that serves this geographical area. Dealgan Doc is not contracted or funded to provide this service by the HSE therefore please contact the co-op directly to seek their response to your query as the HSE does not have this information.

I can confirm that in 2024, 582 individuals who were not registered with a GP attended the Drogheda NEDOC Treatment centre. From 1st January 2025- 31st March 2025, 154 individuals who were not registered with a GP attended the Drogheda NEDOC Treatment centre.

Visitors to the North East who require access to the GP Out of Hours service but are not registered with member GP's are offered appointments if required. In the event, a GMS card holder is unsuccessful in securing a GP, the GP Assignments Unit in PCRS will assign them to a local GP practice once the GP has exceeded the allocation of 2,200 GMS patients. The HSE is not involved in assigning private patients to GP's.

The HSE is proactive in prioritising the recruitment of new GP's or dispersing a GMS panel to other GP's within a GP practice if the required criteria are met, in the event a GP has given notice of their retirement or resignation to the HSE. A 3 month notice period is required. The HSE also provides support to GP's wishing to set up a new GP practice or to take on a new GMS contract in a bid to meet the increased demands for access to community GP services for both GMS card holders and private patients.



I trust this answers your query however, please do not hesitate to get in touch should you require any clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Ruane
Head of Primary Care Services
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation