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**Deputy Marie Sherlock Dáil
Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2**

15th April, 2025

PQ: 8443/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of GPs on the GMS contract, per hundred thousand of population in each county for each of the years 2018 to 2024, tabular form. -Marie Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

There are approximately 3,160 GPs with a public contract (2,552 GMS & 608 others) and c.800 GPs including those who work privately, GPs in training and International Medical Graduate (IMG) participants. Please find attached Appendix 1 which sets down the number of General Practitioners (GMS GPs and GPs registered to provide other services*) that are in practice in each county broken down into CHO and LHO area for each of the years 2018 to 2024.

*Please note that the attached data includes GPs not contracted to the GMS Scheme but who are registered to provide services such as the Primary Childhood Immunisation Scheme, Maternity & Infant, the Health (Amendment) Act 1996, Methadone Treatment Scheme and National Cancer Screening Service.

The HSE is actively working to increase the number of GPs through various initiatives.

Expansion of GP Training

The HSE is working closely with the Irish College of General Practitioners on a range of measures to expand the GP Workforce and in developing a sustainable model of General Practice for the future in line with Sláintecare. GP Training Places have increased from an intake of 259 in 2022 to 286 in 2023 and an intake of 350 in 2024. The total number of trainees undertaking the four-year Programme will increase from the current 1,044 to 1,300 in 2026 – a 25% increase. Funding has been provided in the 2024 budget to enable the HSE and the ICGP to implement this initiative at pace.

International Medical Graduate (IMG) Programme

The International Medical Graduates (IMG) Programme, is an initiative supported by the ICGP, HSE and the IMO aimed at expanding GP workforce in rural and urban disadvantaged areas. As of Q3 2024, 129 candidates have started with the IMG Programme with over 100 of these currently working in General Practice. Recruitment is ongoing in 2025. This has a very immediate impact on GP shortages. The new additional posts work in General Practice for a 2 year period, following which they can take up an Irish GMS contract. The initiative is targeted at rural areas, areas of urban deprivation and those difficult to fill posts in various geographical locations across the country. IMG candidates are in place across all the Health Regions, and the



initiative has helped ease the pressures on GP Practices in areas such as the southwest, southeast, midlands and western seaboard.

General Practice Strategic Review

The Minister for Health has established a Strategic Review of General Practice. The Review is being led by the Department of Health, with support from the HSE and input from key stakeholders, including the IMO and ICGP. The Review is examining the issues affecting general practice including GP training, GP capacity, Out of Hours services reform, the eHealth Agenda, and the financial support model for general practice.

The Review will then identify the arrangements necessary to improve the current system of GP care as part of a primary care-focused health service and in line with the Sláintecare vision on access.

Following its conclusion, a report will be presented to the Minister for Health giving an assessment of the challenges affecting general practice and setting out the actions needed to provide for a more sustainable GP service. Meetings of the Joint Department of Health/HSE Steering Group are ongoing and engagement with relevant stakeholders is currently underway.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

**Geraldine Crowley, Assistant
National Director,
Enhanced Community Care Programme & Primary
Care Contracts**



Appendix 1- Source PCRS Online Reporting <https://www.sspcrs.ie/portal/annual-reporting/>

Community Healthcare Organisation	Number of General Practitioners by Year						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CHO Area 1	234	234	230	234	233	241	247
Cavan / Monaghan	72	71	70	69	71	72	74
Donegal	99	98	96	99	98	103	104
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	63	65	64	66	64	66	69
CHO Area 2	317	317	321	316	313	320	327
Galway	193	196	200	197	194	198	204
Mayo	91	88	87	87	86	88	89
Roscommon	33	33	34	32	33	34	34
CHO Area 3	244	249	250	256	260	261	258
Clare	53	54	56	55	54	54	55
North Tipp. /East Limerick	54	52	51	53	54	53	53
Limerick	137	143	143	148	152	154	150
CHO Area 4	475	472	475	477	481	474	481
South Lee	145	144	150	150	151	151	150
North Lee	127	127	124	121	124	119	124
West Cork	44	43	44	44	46	46	46
Kerry	103	100	99	101	101	102	102
North Cork	56	58	58	61	59	56	59
CHO Area 5	287	295	302	311	308	311	306
Carlow/Kilkenny	84	84	86	85	84	89	89
Waterford	73	75	80	84	79	83	82
South Tipperary	57	60	58	63	62	58	58
Wexford	73	76	78	79	83	81	77
CHO Area 6	284	288	310	319	320	319	329
Dun Laoghaire	113	114	118	126	122	116	118
Dublin South East	94	95	106	108	110	113	113
Wicklow	77	79	86	85	88	90	98
CHO Area 7	374	397	415	424	430	452	460
Dublin South City	107	112	122	118	124	126	127
Dublin South West	99	106	109	115	109	117	119
Dublin West	65	69	73	77	79	83	82
Kildare / West Wicklow	103	110	111	114	118	126	132
CHO Area 8	339	333	338	338	338	338	343
Louth	81	82	83	81	85	83	83
Meath	84	84	88	83	87	85	85



Laois / Offaly	80	80	79	81	79	79	84
Longford / Westmeath	94	87	88	93	87	91	91
CHO Area 9	372	386	393	408	408	410	409
Dublin North West	98	103	102	107	105	106	107
Dublin North Central	123	128	134	137	138	138	141
Dublin North	151	155	157	164	165	166	161
National	2926	2971	3,034	3,083	3,091	3,126	3,160
*Number of GPs included in the above that are not contracted to the GMS Scheme who are registered to provide services such as the Primary Childhood Immunisation Scheme, the Health (Amendment) Act 1996, Methadone Treatment Scheme and National Cancer Screening Service.	429	462	500	528	559	587	608