



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,  
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,  
Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.  
D08 W2A8.

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10<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Deputy O'Shea,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 29802/25 To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of people in receipt of blind welfare allowance for the years 2020 to 2025, by county; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

**- John Paul O'Shea**

Dear Deputy O'Shea,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 29802/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for response.

Blind Welfare Allowance is a means-tested payment from the Health Service Executive (HSE) for people aged 18 or over who are blind or visually impaired and meet the defined eligibility criteria.

The HSE initially collated the number of Blind Welfare Allowance (BWA) recipients at December 2022 and has also collated the number of BWA recipients at December 2023 and December 2024. The available data for BWA recipients is collated by CHO area currently data for each county is not available.

The table below outlines the numbers of recipients for yearend 2022, 2023 and 2024. 2025 data will be collected in early 2026.

CHO Area	December 2022	December 2023	December 2024
1	352	363	366
2	433	427	458
3	251	243	258
4	455	443	447
5	445	420	404
6	145	142	150
7	463	490	493
8	413	528	540
9	391	455	481
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,348</b>	<b>3,511</b>	<b>3,597</b>



I trust this is of assistance.

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**Seán McArt**  
General Manager  
Primary Care Access & Integration