



27th June 2025

Deputy Marie Sherlock
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 31443/25 - To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has adopted a standardised approach regarding the number of outpatient clinics, consultants in their respective specialties would be expected to provide, in a given week, as directed in the letter of determination that issued in November 2024.

PQ 31444/25 - To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has issued detailed guidance to hospitals around outpatient targets under any standardised approach to consultants working in individual specialties, as directed in the letter of determination that issued in November 2024.

PQ 31445/25 - To ask the Minister for Health if consultants, across all specialties that have outpatient clinics, are now automatically receiving monthly data showing how their outpatient data compares with their peers in the same specialty, as directed in the letter of determination that issued in November 2024.

PQ 31446/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the action the HSE board has taken on foot of concerns raised by her predecessor in relation to the lack of a standardised approach to large variations in the volume of outpatient work being carried out

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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

Response:

There are several considerations which can influence the number of Outpatient Clinics a consultant can provide, some of which are hospital infrastructure, cross site commitments, specialty, practice plan, wider multidisciplinary team involvement and clinical complexity. Further information in relation to specific specialties is available through the National Clinical Programmes <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/>

Outpatient activity is collected from the hospitals through the HSE Business Intelligence Unit (BIU), and this outpatient activity is available for national and regional comparable data for all OPD services to achieve the delivery of maximum level of patient care for the funding available. There are a number of databases available to all hospitals, specialties, clinicians.

All hospitals have access to a variety of dashboards including the Outpatient Attendance Dashboard <https://www2.hse.ie/services/activity-performance-data/outpatient-attendance-dashboard/> which has been developed as a publicly available report to show the number of OPD appointments seen by Health Region, hospital, specialty and consultant. Also, publicly available on the HSE website are the monthly performance reports <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/performance-reports/>

All of these enhanced information tools allow for timely information to enable the regions/sites/clinicians to manage performance, productivity and delivery of care for each of their respective specialties.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

**Sheila McGuinness,
Access & Integration**