



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
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1st July 2025

PQ32066/25- To ask the Minister for Health to outline all public laboratory capacity available in the State, broken down by location, laboratory type; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Thank you for your representation. The current HSE laboratory services are summarised in the HSE Outline Strategic Plan for Laboratory Services 2026-2035 available on the HSE website.

(<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/lsr/resources/programme-documents-resources.html>)

The HSE Clinical Laboratory Services are summarised on page 18 of the document and the HSE Health Protection Laboratory Services including both the Public Analyst Laboratories and the Official Food and Water Microbiology services are summarised on page 20 of the document. Briefly the HSE provides clinical diagnostic laboratory services from 42 hospital-based laboratories and from the National Drug Treatment Centre. The laboratories provide a very broad range of services. The main clinical disciplines are Chemical Pathology, Haematology, Histopathology, Immunology, Microbiology and Transfusion. Additionally, there are a growing number of sub-disciplines and emerging disciplines such as Genetics and Genomics. The range of services provided is very broad. In addition to performing analysis and interpretation of analytical results, services may include providing products for transfusion and phlebotomy.

The scope of the service is very dynamic, constantly evolving in response to new developments, changes in technology and changing needs. The scope of services provided by each HSE accredited medical laboratory is configured for the needs of its patient population and is itemised on their certificate of accreditation available on the website of the Irish National Accreditation Board. Additional services may be provided as they are evaluated and verified before they are added to scope of accreditation. The HSE also provides a number of Clinical Reference Laboratory Services and relies for a significant volume of services on the National Virus Reference Laboratory in University College Dublin. The Health Protection Laboratory Services include seven public health food and water microbiology laboratories. These laboratories serve a key function in delivering on the Official Food Microbiology Laboratory (OFML). There are also public laboratory services related to other Government Departments. The Government has recently established an Expert Laboratory Advisory Group to support improved coordination between all public laboratory services.



I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer