



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

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Deputy Cathy Bennett
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

11th June 2025

PQ: 24906/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of GPs by county or smallest geographic region available; the number per capita; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Bennett,

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

There are approximately 3,174 GPs with a public contract (2,553 GMS & 621 others) and c.800 GPs including those who work privately, GPs in training and International Medical Graduate (IMG) participants. It is estimated that there are approximately 7.4 practising GP's per 10k of the population in Ireland.

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 as of March 2025. The HSE is actively working to increase the number of GPs through various initiatives detailed below.

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 Q2 2025, 152 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	No of GPs March 2025
CHO Area 1	
Cavan / Monaghan	74
Donegal	101
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	69
CHO Area 2	
Galway	204
Mayo	89
Roscommon	34
CHO Area 3	
Clare	56
North Tipp. /East Limerick	53
Limerick	152
CHO Area 4	
South Lee	150
North Lee	126
West Cork	46
Kerry	102
North Cork	60
CHO Area 5	
Carlow/Kilkenny	89
Waterford	83
South Tipperary	58
Wexford	77
CHO Area 6	
Dun Laoghaire	120
Dublin South East	116
Wicklow	98
CHO Area 7	
Dublin South City	128
Dublin South West	122
Dublin West	84
Kildare / West Wicklow	132
CHO Area 8	
Laois/Offaly	82
Longford Westmeath	91
Louth	84
Meath	86
CHO Area 9	
Dublin North	162
Dublin North Central	141
Dublin North West	105
Total	3174



*Number of GPs included in the above that are not contracted to the GMS Scheme who are registered to provide services under the Primary Childhood Immunisation Scheme, the Health (Amendment) Act 1996, Methadone Treatment Scheme and National Cancer Screening Service.	621
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