Príomhoifigeach Daoine
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8

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David Cullinane, TD

13 October 2025

PQ 44667/25 (Health) – To ask the Minister for Health the number of public ophthalmologists available for children across the south east, south, and south-west, WTE and headcount, by catchment area, in each year 2020 to 2025, in tabular form. - David Cullinane

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response.

This information is not collated centrally however, we shared your PQ with Dublin South East and the South West regions and the following are the returned responses. I wish to draw to your attention these have not been validated by National HR.

Appendix 1. (attached with letter) contains data from Dublin South East with the following caveats -

1. Dublin and the South East didn't exist back in 2020, so the information provided is only available from 2023 to June 2025. Data for the months March 2024, December 2024, January 2025 and July - September 2025 is unavailable.
2. DSE was not established in 2023
3. Reporting only available on SAP BEx from March 2024

Appendix 2. (attached with letter) contains data from South West Primary Care.

The below relates to the Acute Hospitals (South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital).

1. There is not a dedicated WTE Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon assigned to Paediatrics.
2. Three of the Consultant Surgeons (who are 2.5wte) provide Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) screening and treatment session every Thursday morning in Cork University Maternity Hospital. This feeds into one ROP follow up outpatient session a month and 1 theatre slot in a theatre session per month.
3. These Consultants also see paediatric patients in their outpatient sessions mixed with adult patients. One Consultant has a dedicated paediatric theatre list on the 2nd and 5th Wednesday of every month. The Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeons have been in situ since 2020
4. Two Consultant Medical Ophthalmologists (commenced Q2, 2021), also see suitable paediatric patients on the return list, these Consultants do not have a designated paediatric clinic, and patients are seen as part of a mixed adult /paediatric OPD clinic.
5. As paediatric patients are mostly seen mixed in with adult sessions, it is difficult to determine the exact WTE assigned to Paediatrics and the activity can vary month on month due to service demands and urgency.

I trust this is of some assistance.
Yours sincerely,

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Mairéad Ryan
National HR

Calendar Year/Month	HSE/38	Grade Code	Grade Code Description	Grode Group	WTE (Mar 2024)	Headcount (Mar 2024)
Mar-24	Health Service Executive	1007	Senior House Officer Opthalmology	Senior House Officer	4	4
Mar-24	Health Service Executive	1147	Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon	Consultant Surgery	6.27	7
Mar-24	Health Service Executive	1491	Ophthalmic Physician, Community	Other Medical	4	4
Mar-24	Health Service Executive	1532	Registrar, Opthalmology	Registrar	3	3
Total					17.27	18

Calendar Year/Month	HSE/38	Grade Code	Grade Code Description	Grade Group	WTE (Dec 2024)	Headcount (Dec 2024)
Dec-24	Health Service Executive	1007	Senior House Officer Opthalmology	Senior House Officer	3.65	4
Dec-24	Health Service Executive	1147	Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon	Consultant Surgery	7.25	8
Dec-24	Health Service Executive	1491	Ophthalmic Physician, Community	Other Medical	3	3
Dec-24	Health Service Executive	1532	Registrar, Opthalmology	Registrar	1.97	2
Total					**15.87**	**17**

Calendar Year/Month	HSE/38	Grade Code	Grade Code Description	Grade Group	WTE (Jan 2025)	Headcount (Jan 2025)
Jan-25	Health Service Executive	1007	Senior House Officer Opthalmology	Senior House Officer	2.34	4
Jan-25	Health Service Executive	1147	Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon	Consultant Surgery	6.27	7
Jan-25	Health Service Executive	1491	Ophthalmic Physician, Community	Other Medical	3	3
Jan-25	Health Service Executive	1532	Registrar, Opthalmology	Registrar	2.96	3
Jan-25	Section 38 Hospitals	1007	Senior House Officer Opthalmology	Senior House Officer	9.52	12
Jan-25	Section 38 Hospitals	1147	Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon	Consultant Surgery	17.85	22
Jan-25	Section 38 Hospitals	1150	Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist	Consultant Medicine	3.76	5
Jan-25	Section 38 Hospitals	1491	Ophthalmic Physician, Community	Other Medical	4.25	8
Jan-25	Section 38 Hospitals	1532	Registrar, Opthalmology	Registrar	9	9
Total					**58.95**	**73**

Calendar Year/Month	HSE/38	Grade Code	Grade Code Description	Grade Group	WTE (Jul 2025)	Headcount (Jul 2025)
Jul-25	Health Service Executive	1007	Senior House Officer Opthalmology	Senior House Officer	3.17	6
Jul-25	Health Service Executive	1147	Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon	Consultant Surgery	7.17	8
Jul-25	Health Service Executive	1491	Ophthalmic Physician, Community	Other Medical	2	2
Jul-25	Health Service Executive	1532	Registrar, Opthalmology	Registrar	2.83	3
Jul-25	Section 38 Hospitals	1007	Senior House Officer Opthalmology	Senior House Officer	12.52	15
Jul-25	Section 38 Hospitals	1147	Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon	Consultant Surgery	19.5	24
Jul-25	Section 38 Hospitals	1150	Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist	Consultant Medicine	2.8	3
Jul-25	Section 38 Hospitals	1491	Ophthalmic Physician, Community	Other Medical	5.96	11
Jul-25	Section 38 Hospitals	1532	Registrar, Opthalmology	Registrar	8	8
Total					**63.95**	**80**

Mari O'Donovan,
Interim Head of Service,
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1st October, 2025

Mr. David Cullinane., T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ 44667/25

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of public ophthalmologists available for children across the south east, south, and south-west, WTE and headcount, by catchment area, in each year 2020 to 2025, in tabular form"

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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

Community Paediatric Services for HSE Southwest and the other services would be incorporated in SIVUH and CUH. The below relates to either Community Ophthalmic Physicians or Consultant Ophthalmologists

The Number of Public Ophthalmologists available for Children across the South East, South, and South West		
South West Community Paediatric Services		
Year	**WTE**	**Total Number of People**
2025	3 WTE	3
2024	2.6 WTE	3
2023	2 WTE	2
2022	2 WTE	2
2021	2 WTE	2
2020	2 WTE	2

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Mari O'Donovan
Interim Head of Service - Primary Care,
HSE South West