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22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024

Re. **PQ13793/24: To ask the Minister for Health the total number of patients to receive surgical oncology in each of the past ten years and to date in 2024.**

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The number of patients aged 16+ years undergoing cancer surgery is given below and was generated from the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) system using a Cancer Intelligence script which matches on surgical procedure block and cancer diagnosis. This Cancer Intelligence script is only valid from 2016 onwards due to changes in the way data was recorded historically. As such, data from 2016 onwards has been provided.

Caveat:

- The data presented here are for cancer surgery and do not include diagnostic procedures.
- It is important to note that surgical cases that were outsourced to private facilities are not included and as such some activity may be higher than is reported here.
- It is more reasonable to interpret the data presented here in terms of trend than it is for absolute numbers. That is, comparison between years when taken as a percentage of previous activity is a reasonable indication for comparing surgical activity between years but using absolute numbers between years should be avoided.
- Recent HIPE surgical data (from 2023) is likely to be incomplete due to the inherent lag in hospitals submitting data to HIPE.
- HIPE data is based on patient discharges, not admissions, so is retrospective in nature. More recent data are subject to change as hospitals continue to upload data to the national system. In normal times, it takes six months after the year end for the data to be validated and finalised.

Data Export: 15th April 2024

Reporting Period: 2016-2023 (HIPE Open and Closed)

Year	Number of HIPE cases having a primary diagnosis of cancer and surgical procedure (% of 2019 activity)
2016	14,537 (90)
2017	14,928 (93)
2018	15,604 (97)
2019	16,085 (100)
2020	13,244 (82)
2021	15,064 (94)
2022	16,638 (103)
2023	17,529 (109)
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,629</b>

Yours sincerely,



Dr Robert Conway  
SPHM Cancer Intelligence (MCRN 411192)  
National Cancer Control Programme

