

9th May, 2024

Ms. Holly Cairns, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 18598/24

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients seen by the SouthDoc service in Bantry, by week, from 1 January 2024 to date, in tabular form."

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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

Since July 2023, SouthDoc redesignated the West Cork Service delivery process from individual Treatment Centres to Regionalised areas. To that end, SouthDoc does not report on individual treatment centres in West Cork, rather as "West Cork". This effectively means that in West Cork all statistics are recorded on a regional basis. This is as a result of the consolidation of the service delivery and the safe processing of the electronic patient records through the regionalised Treatment Centres.

In relation to Bantry, all patient records are electronically transferred to "West Cork" where the duty Doctor will make the appropriate clinical determination in relation to the type and location of the consultation.

Therefore, below table reflects "West Cork" data including home visits.

Number of patients seen by the SouthDoc service in West Cork, by week, from 1 January 2024 to date	
Week beg	No. of Patients seen
01/01/2024	126
08/01/2024	86
15/01/2024	90
22/01/2024	99
29/01/2024	99
05/02/2024	129
12/02/2024	84
19/02/2024	83
26/02/2024	101
04/03/2024	83
11/03/2024	112
18/03/2024	131
25/03/2024	89
01/04/2024	124
08/04/2024	112
15/04/2024	108
22/04/2024	109

It is important to emphasise that if an individual in Bantry requires care, that care will be provided by appointment only in the Treatment Centre or via Home Visit depending on clinical condition of the patient as assessed by the consulting Doctor. While SouthDoc works closely with the Emergency services, SouthDoc is not an emergency service provider. Should an emergency clinical situation arise, the appropriate emergency service providers should be contacted for the patient, in that event.

SouthDoc continues to deliver the service in response to the patient needs in a manner, which assures safety, ease and equity of access. All patients are dealt with in accordance with their clinical needs.

In summary, the SouthDoc Out of Hours service remains available to the patients and full access to the services provided by them. The SouthDoc Treatment Centre facilities in West Cork will continue to be by appointment only. There are no plans to change the clinical, operational or electronic infrastructure of the service in West Cork.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare