



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

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Deputy Brendan Howlin,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

15th May 2024

PQ 18605/24

To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm that number of single-person GP practices, by county, registered with the GMS; the number of two-person GP practices, by county, registered with the GMS; the number of larger GP practices, by county, registered with the GMS, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Howlin,

I refer to the above PQ 18605/24 received in our office for response.

I wish to advise that the HSE holds contractual arrangements with the individual GP only. However, many GPs choose to enter into partnership arrangements with their respective GP colleagues within the practice. There are also varying forms of partnership arrangements in place within individual general practices, for instance partnerships may consist of GPs who hold GMS contracts only or alternatively the partnership arrangement may consist of both GMS GPs and those GPs who operate on a private basis within the practice. In addition, not all GPs (GMS or Private) in the practice opt to enter into a partnership arrangement. Consequently, a composite list with details on the breakdown of the number of single handed, two GP Practices and group practices is currently not available.

Please see below number of GMS General Practitioners that are in practice in each county broken down into HSE Area.

The 2023 GP Agreement provides for increased supports and targeted initiatives to GPs to maintain and increase capacity in general practices and also to support and promote partnership arrangements, where feasible.

These measures include enhanced Practice Support Subsidies and introduction of a new form of Practice Grant towards the cost of employing additional practice staff and/or increase in hours of existing practice staff, together with the introduction of a new role of GP Practice Assistant. GPs in group practices are permitted to pool Grants to optimise enhancement of the Practice's capacity. In addition, GPs who are not in a group practice may coalesce for the purposes of availing of enhanced practice capacity.

Targeted initiatives include the provision financial support measures for GPs in rural areas, in particular single-handed GP practices, as well as areas of urban deprivation, where the filling of vacancies have proved challenging to fill. These consists of pilot initiatives whereby qualifying

GMS GP practices, where a vacancy has arisen due to the retirement/resignation/death of the outgoing single-handed GP may form an affiliation with a larger practice involving two or more GPs within the nearest population centre, as follows:

- (i) Provision of financial support to larger GMS practices operating within 30kms from the former vacant GMS practice to affiliate/partner and engage an additional GMS GP within a six month period, with a commitment to maintain general practitioner services within the GMS vacancy area.
- (ii) Provision of financial support to larger GMS practices operating within a 25km radius of a qualifying GMS single-handed GP practice to affiliate/partner with the single-handed GMS GP within 5 years of retirement of the single-handed GP, with a commitment to maintain general practitioner services within the area.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contracts**

Data Source: HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Services (PCRS)

Note: Information on the number of GPs is available by HSE Area as listed below.

CHO	LHO No.	LHO Area	Total
1	13	Cavan/Monaghan	67
	19	Donegal	94
	20	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	61
CHO 1			222
2	16	Galway	176
	17	Mayo	77
	18	Roscommon	33
CHO 2			286
3	21	Clare	50
	22	North Tipperary/East Limerick	40
	23	Limerick	121
CHO 3			211
4	24	South Lee	131
	25	North Lee	98
	26	West Cork	38
	27	Kerry	92
	28	North Cork	52
CHO 4			411
5	29	Carlow/Kilkenny	75
	30	Waterford	71
	31	South Tipperary	53
	32	Wexford	73
CHO 5			272
6	1	Dun Laoghaire	75
	2	Dublin South East	78
	7	Wicklow	78
CHO 6			231
7	3	Dublin South City	69
	4	Dublin South West	80
	5	Dublin West	65
	6	Kildare/West Wicklow	103
CHO 7			317
8	8	Laois/Offaly	66
	9	Longford/Westmeath	70
	14	Louth	71
	15	Meath	76
CHO 8			283
9	10	Dublin North West	84
	11	Dublin North Central	84
	12	Dublin North	134
CHO 9			302
National			2,535