



29th January, 2024

Deputy Pauline Tully, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 3579/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultant vascular surgeons working in the Public Health Service; his plans to expand this number; and the international recommended best practice ratio for consultant vascular surgeons to population and current ratios

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Surgery (NCP S) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The HSE's Vascular Surgery Model of Care for Ireland was launched in November 2023 by the HSE's National Clinical Programme for Surgery. This document outlines workforce planning for consultant vascular surgeons. Consultant vascular surgeons, whose numbers have increased from 18 in 2000 to 33 in 2022 (83% increase), provide the national vascular surgery service in 10 hospitals. The current ratio in Ireland is 1:152,000 and this compares with 1:126,000 in the UK.

The Vascular Surgery United Kingdom Workforce Survey (2018) carried out by the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland, recommended a gradual increase in numbers to 1:100,000 over 10 years.

Based on the current population of Ireland and the advice of the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland, it is predicted that there should be 57 new (additional) vascular surgeons to meet the demand to 2038. This would align with the recommendation for the reconfiguration of Vascular Surgery Services within each new health region area.

Meeting this demand requires approximately an average of 1.5 trainees to complete specialist training each year to replace vascular surgeons retiring.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan
General Manager