



Oifig an Stúirthóra Náisiúnta
um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

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Deputy John Brady
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

8th August 2024

PQ 31729/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent (WTE)-trained colonoscopy staff required to meet colonoscopy target waiting times at the end of each of the years 2014 to 2024, by hospital group, compared to the WTE number of trained colonoscopy staff required to deliver the colonoscopy service in each hospital group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - John Brady

Dear Deputy Brady,

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.

The Endoscopy Programme have advised the following.

Gastrointestinal endoscopy is a diagnostic procedure that involves an examination of the inner lining of the gastrointestinal tract.

Colonoscopy is performed by healthcare professionals who are undergoing or who have undergone specific training. This includes physicians, surgeons and nurses.

The HSE does not have specific system wide WTE data for fully trained endoscopists who performed endoscopy in this time period as this workforce includes consultant gastroenterologists, consultant surgeons, senior gastroenterology registrars, senior surgical registrars, Special Registrars, Advanced Nurse Practitioners and locum consultants. The work plans and workload of some these staff groups can change year on year.

The HSE does not have detailed information on national WTE trained endoscopy nursing, healthcare assistant, and administrative staff numbers for this period.

Information from public hospitals is uploaded to a national database called NQAIS Endoscopy. Information from private hospitals is also uploaded to NQAIS Endoscopy.

Information uploaded to NQAIS Endoscopy from 2015-2018 was published according to the academic/medical training year. Information covering the period July to December 2018 was published as a standalone/supplementary report. From January 2019 onwards information was published according to the calendar year. For example, the next annual report to be published in November 2024 will contain information covering the period 01 January to 31 December 2023.



Reports published by the National Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Quality Improvement Programme are available online and below is an extraction from each report as it relates to the number of healthcare professionals who carried out colonoscopies during the timeframe covered by each report.

Year	Report period	Total number of hospitals included in the report (inclusive of public and private hospitals)	Number of healthcare professionals who carried out colonoscopies during the reported timeframe across all hospitals in NQAIS-Endoscopy
2016	1st National Data Report (01/07/2015 to 30/06/2016)	34 hospitals in total 29 public hospitals 5 private hospitals	537
2017	2nd National Data Report (01/07/2016 to 07/07/2017)	36 hospitals in total 29 public hospitals 7 private hospitals	599
2018 a	3rd National Data Report (07/07/2017 to 08/07/2018)	39 hospitals in total 31 public hospitals 8 private hospitals	630
2018 b	4 th National Data Report (01/07/2020-31/12/2020)	42 hospitals in total 34 public hospitals 8 private hospitals	600
2019	5 th National Data Report (01/01/2019-31/12/2019)	44 hospitals in total 34 public hospitals 10 private hospitals	736
2020	6 th National Data Report (01/01/2020-31/12/2020)	44 hospitals in total 34 public hospitals 10 private hospitals	745
2021	7 th National Data Report (2016 – 2021)	47 hospitals in total 35 public hospitals 12 private hospitals	1,117*
2022	8 th National Data Report (01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022)	47 hospitals in total 35 public hospitals 12 private hospitals	794
2023	9 th National Data Report (01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023)	Publication details to be determined	TBC

Data source: NQAIS Endoscopy System

**7th National Data Report is a retrospective report due to cyber attack in 2021. This figure is for all endoscopists registered on the NQAIS-Endoscopy system between 2016 and 2020.*



I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nessa Lynch', written over a horizontal line.

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Access and Integration (Acute Services)