



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta  
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Conarthaí Príomhchúraim  
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Deputy Ivana Bacik  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**PQ 33001/24: To ask the Minister for Health for a breakdown of the annual payments since 2020 to providers of community diagnostics under the general practitioner access to community diagnostics scheme; to confirm if the entire service is outsourced; the proportion provided in public facilities, by year, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Bacik,

I refer to your parliamentary question referenced above. The GP Access to Community Diagnostics Scheme is an integral component of the Enhanced Community Care programme, enabling direct access to diagnostic imaging and diagnostic tests for all GPs nationally for the full population over 16. The scheme builds on pathways already in place for GP direct access to Community Ultrasound.

The scheme commenced in January 2021, delivering 139k scans in 2021, 253k scans in 2022, and 335k scans in 2023. A pilot project to examine the programme's impact on GP practice demonstrated an increase in patients managed in General Practice (10% to 67%) and a 58% reduction in referrals to public Outpatient Clinics / Consultants.

The scheme supports early diagnosis of disease, improved patient experience, and reduces hospital referrals and aims to provide:

- Urgent scans within one month from receipt of the referral
- Routine scans within three months from receipt of the referral
- Reports to GP within 72 hours of test completion

There is a panel of approved radiology diagnostic private providers in place to deliver these services the majority of which are not located in public facilities. You will find details of all of the private providers by CHO location [Here](#).

The amounts paid to each of the providers is commercially sensitive and not publicly available.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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