

25th June, 2024

Mr. Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 26770/24

"To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that currently there is only one doctor servicing all of the Cork metropolitan area, a large portion of west and east Cork for SouthDoc; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

South West Doctors on Call Limited is an appointment based Out of Hours Family Doctor Service for urgent medical care in Counties Cork and Kerry with its administrative headquarters and call centre in Killarney, Co Kerry. SouthDoc is accredited by NSAI to ISO 9001: 2015 Quality Management System standard.

SouthDoc has a membership of over 500 GPs and a network of Treatment Centres of which seven are overnight and supported by a fleet of vehicles which are fully equipped for home visit situations. The peninsulas are also supported with a specific model of service provision.

SouthDoc provides a medical service to a population of approximately 736,000 in addition to the 3.3M visitors to the area and dealt with over 212, 000 patient contacts in 2023 and almost 100,000 already this year.

The following is a summary of doctors on duty in the areas outlined above:

Area	Monday-Friday	Weekends	Overnight
Cork City	4	5	2
Midleton	2	2	1
Bandon	1	1	1
West Cork	1	2	1

As a dynamic community based service delivered across the two counties of Cork and Kerry SouthDoc constantly reviews the service provision to ensure its continued viability. There are many factors involved in the delivery of the service not least the capacity / availability of Doctors, Locum Doctors, staff and infrastructure.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Lynch', with a large, stylized initial 'P' and 'L'.

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