



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Community Operations - Primary Care

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

T: 01 6352209/2682
E: community.primarycare@hse.ie

13th May 2024

Deputy Lahart,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 20110/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the current number of audiologist WTEs in post per 100,000 population in each CHO area; his views that there is a wide variation of audiology staff between CHO areas; and if he accepts that this contributes to inequitable waiting lists between CHO areas

-John Lahart

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 20110/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE Community Audiology workforce data for March 2024 is outlined in Table 1 by CHO, along with their respective populations and workforce ratio per 100k/population.

Table 1.

HSE Current Data	CHO Population	WTE	wte per 100,000
CHO1	391281	6.12	1.56
CHO2	453109	8.97	1.98
CHO3	384998	5.44	1.41
CHO4	690575	8.43	1.22
CHO5	510333	12.1	2.37
CHO6 & 7	1090883	5.5	0.50
CHO8	619281	6.12	0.99
CHO9	621405	8.64	1.39
National Average	4761865	61.32	1.29



The HSE stated objective is to ensure that citizens can access the right care, at the right time and in the right place. The geographic catchment areas for Primary Care Teams are defined nationally by Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) are based on population figures. In relation to catchment areas CHO's track waiting lists on a continuous basis and ensure they prioritise the provision of care for those patients identified as having the greatest needs and the highest risk within their overall resource.

In 2023, a total of 56,322 Audiology patients were seen which is an increase of 5.7% compared to 2022. In the first quarter of 2024, a total of 13,733 Audiology patients were seen.

I trust this is of assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt', written over a horizontal line.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations