# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 823**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 06 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 14)**

**Mrs E R Wilson (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(1) What number of forensic pathologists are currently appointed (a) at each mortuary and (b) in each province;

(2) what (a) progress has been made to ensure that forensic pathology officers are registered with a professional body and (b) number of forensic pathology officers are currently registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa?

 **NW1940E**

###### REPLY:

1. For 1 (a) and (b) for Western Cape (updated 14 September 2019), please refer to Table 1 below:

The Western Cape does not appoint their Forensic Pathologists to the mortuaries, as they (outside of the Metro) are a resource that provides services across a geographic area. In the Metro they are linked to the two Departments of Forensic Medicine (University of Stellenbosch & University of Cape Town) and they also have academic responsibilities. Registrars are excluded, as they are not qualified pathologists. This also supports the deployment of pathologists beyond their specific area when they have service pressures elsewhere or during major incident response. In the rural areas either the doctors travel or the case travels to the doctor.

 Please refer to the table overleaf.

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| **Table 1: Western Cape** |
| Facility / Area | FPS Facilities supported | Title / Portfolio | Number | Comment |
| Cape Town Metro East /US | Metro East / Tygerberg FPL | Head of Department | 1 | Not only service delivery responsibilities.The HOD should not be counted towards service delivery due to the nature of their responsibilities |
| Head Clinical Unit | 1 |
| Pathologists | 3 |
| Sub Total |  |  | **5** |
| Cape Town Metro West / UCT | Metro West / Salt River | Head of Department | 1 | Not only service delivery responsibilities The HOD should not be counted towards service delivery due to the nature of their responsibilities |
| Head Clinical Unit | 1 |
| Pathologists | 5 |
| Sub Total |  |  | **7** |
| West Coat / Winelands | Paarl, Malmesbury, Vredenburg, Vredendal  | Head Clinical Unit | 1 | Doctor travel or case travel |
| Pathologist | 1 |
| Sub Total |  |  | **2** |
| Winelands / Overberg | Worcester, Hermanus, Ceres; Swellendam | Head Clinical Unit | 1 | Doctor travel or case travel |
| Pathologist | 1 |
| Sub Total |  |  | **2** |
| Garden Route / Central Karoo | George, Knysna, Mossel Bay, Riversdale, Oudtshoorn, Laingsburg, Beaufort West | Head Clinical Unit | 1 | Doctor travel or case travel |
| Pathologist | 1 |
| Sub Total |  |  | **2** |
| Total with HODs |  |  | 18 |  |
| **Total without HODs** |  |  | **16** |  |

For 1 (a) and (b) for Mpumalanga (updated 30 June 2019), please refer to Table 2 below:

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| **Table 2: Mpumalanga** |
| **Mortuary** | **No of Pathologists** |
| Themba | 1 |
| Mapulaneng | 0 |
| Tonga | 0 |
| Tintswalo | 0 |
| Barberton | 0 |
| Lydenburg | 0 |
| Kwamhlanga | 0 |
| Middelburg | 0 |
| Witbank | 1 |
| Belfast | 0 |
| Delmas | 0 |
| Mmamethlake | 0 |
| Ermelo | 1 |
| Evander | 0 |
| Piet Retief | 0 |
| Embhuleni | 0 |
| Carolina | 0 |
| Standerton | 0 |
| Volksrust | 0 |
| Balfour | 0 |
| Bethal | 0 |
| **Total** | **3** |

For 1 (a) and (b) for North West (updated 30 June 2019), please refer to Table 3 below:

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| **Table 3: North West** |
| **Name of Mortuary** | **No of pathologists** |
| Klerksdorp | 0 |
| Potchefstroom | 1 |
| Lichtenburg | 0 |
| Mahikeng | 0 |
| Phokeng | 1 |
| Brits | 0 |
| Vryburg | 0 |
| **Total** | **2** |

For 1 (a) and (b) for Eastern Cape (updated 16 September 2019), please refer to Table 4 below:

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| **Table 4: Eastern Cape** |
| **Name of Mortuary:** | **No of Pathologists** |
| Mdantsane | 0 |
| Woodbrook | 0 |
| Bisho | 0 |
| Butterworth | 0 |
| Pe Region | 0 |
| Gelvandale | 0 |
| Uitenhage | 0 |
| Mount Road | 1 |
| New Brighton | 0 |
| Grahamstown | 0 |
| Graaff Reinet | 0 |
| Mthatha | 0 |
| Lusikisiki | 0 |
| Mt Frere | 0 |
| Mt Fletcher | 0 |
| Bizana | 0 |
| Aliwal North | 0 |
| Queenstown | 0 |
| Regional | 1 |
| **Total** | **2** |

For 1 (a) and (b) for Free State (updated 16 September 2019), please refer to Table 5 below:

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| **Table 5: Free State** |
| **Name of Mortuary** | **No of Pathologists** |
|
| Botshabelo | 0 |
| Bloemfontein  | 4 |
| Smithfield  | 0 |
| Jagersfontein | 0 |
| Bethlehem | 0 |
| Phuthaditjhaba | 0 |
| Harrismith | 0 |
| Ficksburg | 0 |
| Sasolburg | 0 |
| Kroonstad | 0 |
| Welkom | 1 |
| **Total** | **5** |

For 1 (a) and (b) for Gauteng (updated 16 September 2019), please refer to Table 6 below:

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| **Table 6: Gauteng** |
| **Name of Mortuary** | **No of Pathologists** |
|
| Pretoria | 4 |
| Ga-Rankuwa | 2 |
| Bronkhorstspruit | 0 |
| Diepkloof | 2 |
| Sebokeng | 0 |
| Johannesburg | 6 |
| Springs  | 0 |
| Germiston | 2 |
| Heidelberg | 0 |
| Roodepoort | 1 |
|  **Total** | **17** |

(a) and (b) for Kwa-Zulu Natal (updated 16 September 2019), please refer to Table 7 below:

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| **Table 7: Kwa-Zulu Natal** |
| **Name of Mortuary** | **No of Pathologists** |
| Gale Street | 2 |
| Phoenix | 2 |
| Pinetown | 1 |
| Park Rynie | 0 |
| Port Shepstone | 0 |
| Harding | 0 |
| KwaDukuza | 0 |
| Pietermaritzburg | 0 |
| New Hanover | 0 |
| Howick | 0 |
| Richmond | 0 |
| Mooi River | 0 |
| Ladysmith | 0 |
| Estcourt | 0 |
| Bergville | 0 |
| Dundee | 0 |
| Nqutu | 0 |
| Tugela Ferry | 0 |
| Greytown | 0 |
| Newcastle | 0 |
| Madadeni | 0 |
| Utrecht | 0 |
| Dannhauser | 0 |
| Kokstad | 0 |
| Ixopo | 0 |
| Umzimkulu | 0 |
| Bulwer | 0 |
| Ulundi | 0 |
| Nongoma | 0 |
| Paulpietersburg | 0 |
| Vryheid | 0 |
| Pongola | 0 |
| Mtubatuba | 0 |
| Mkhuze | 0 |
| Mosvold | 0 |
| Mseleni | 0 |
| Manguzi | 0 |
| Richards Bay | 1 |
| Eshowe | 0 |
| Nkandla | 0 |
| **TOTALS** | **6** |

For 1 (a) and (b) for Northern Cape (updated 16 September 2019), please refer to Table 8 below:

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|  **Table 8 Northern Cape** |
| **Name of Mortuary** | **No of Pathologists** |
| Kimberley | 1 |
| Upington | 0 |
| Kuruman | 0 |
| De Aar | 0 |
| Sprongbok | 0 |
| Calvina | 0 |
| **Total** | **1** |

For 1 (a) and (b) for Limpopo (updated 22 February 2018), please refer to Table 9 below:

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| **Table 9: Limpopo** |
| **Name of Mortuary:** | **No of Pathologists** |
| Lebowakgomo  | 0 |
| ST. Ritas | 0 |
| Groblersdal | 0 |
| Mokopane | 1 |
| Bela-Bela | 1 |
| Letaba | 0 |
| Kgapane | 0 |
| Nkhensani | 0 |
| Maphutha-Malatji | 0 |
| Elim | 0 |
| Tshilidzini | 0 |
| **TOTAL**  | **2** |

(2) (a) A special HPCSA Board meeting was held in March 2019 and the Board resolved to:

“a. To rescind the resolution taken in October 2018 to approve the revised Regulations relating to registration Forensic Pathology Officers which had provided for five (5) categories / designations.

b. The Regulations relating to the registration of Forensic Pathology Officers as amended during the meeting be approved.”

It was concluded that the Regulations relating to the registration of Forensic Pathology Officers approved on 27 March 2019 and the response to public comments would be submitted to the Department of Health for final promulgation once the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation has issued the socio-economic impact certificate.

(b) No forensic pathology officers have been registered to date.

END.