



6 June 2018

Deputy Pat Buckley
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ ref: 22062-18 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of clinical psychologists employed by the HSE in each of the years 2002 to 2017 and to date in 2018

Dear Deputy Buckley,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to the details of the number of psychologists employed by the Health Services Executive (HSE) which was forwarded to the HSE by the Department of Health for direct reply.

Firstly, I should point out that staffing figures provided generally relate to direct employment levels in public health service, as returned through the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC) by each public health sector (HSE and Section 38 Voluntary Agency). Numbers equating to service levels are expressed as whole-time equivalents (WTE) taking account of part-time working, whereas headcount figures give the number of individuals.

At 30th April 2018, there were 134,043 personnel (equating to 116,344 WTE) directly employed in the provision of Health and Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 organisations. The largest grouping are nurses and midwives who form one-third of our staff, with Psychologists accounting for 989 WTE or just under 1% of all staff. The Deputy will be interested to note that the number of psychologists has doubled (+98%) over the years covered by this request.

I wish to point out that the figures supplied are as returned by the employing agencies and as that the grade structure for psychologists has changed over the years with some staff in the process of being reclassified (e.g. clinical to educational or counselling). The new criteria for appointment as a psychologist does not differentiate on the basis of qualification (clinical, counselling or educational) but on clinical placements during professional training in appropriate health settings. These revised criteria provide greater career opportunities to the practitioners in the different branches of professional psychology. The Psychological Society of Ireland accreditation standards for Clinical Psychologists states that Clinical Psychologists provide a variety of services including assessment, therapy, and consultancy services which enables the Clinical psychologist to become professionally qualified to work in the health sector and related services. For the Deputy's information the Report of the Psychology Review Implementation Group can be accessed at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/eligibility-criteria/report-of-the-psychology-review-implementation-group.pdf>.

The figures as requested by the Deputy for each date referred to are set out as in the following table:



Psychologists	Psychology, Director of	Psychologist, Principal Clinical	Psychologist, Senior Clinical	Psychologist, Clinical	Psychologist, Counselling	Psychologist, Educational	Psychologist, Senior Educational	Total WTE (excluding Trainee's)	Psychologist, Trainee Clinical	Total WTE	Headcount
Dec-02	7	27	168	213				416	84	500	557
Dec-03	7	36	192	206				441	75	517	584
Dec-04	5	42	218	185				449	59	508	566
Dec-05	6	42	242	207				497	75	572	650
Dec-06	5	53	241	223				523	99	621	696
Dec-07	4	67	256	238				565	127	692	768
Dec-08	4	73	278	260				616	110	726	800
Dec-09	3	71	316	243				633	118	751	829
Dec-10	1	75	339	239				654	114	768	857
Dec-11	1	76	348	219	8	14		666	116	782	866
Dec-12	1	71	329	205	7	14		627	117	744	828
Dec-13		72	321	249	7	13		662	124	786	878
Dec-14	1	69	328	268	6	10		682	132	815	912
Dec-15	1	73	369	281	6	15		744	143	887	989
Dec-16	1	75	381	285	6	16		764	157	921	1,026
Dec-17	1	77	421	269	5	22		795	169	964	1,080
Apr-18	1	73	420	300	5	23	1	822	167	989	1,103

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

Staffing information which is updated monthly is available at: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/>

I trust that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.

Yours sincerely,

Des Williams
 General Manager