



Géaroibríochtaí,  
Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Bóthar, Míleata, Baile Átha Cliath 8  
Acute Operations,  
The Dargan Building, Heuston South Quarter, Military Road, Dublin 8

14<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Deputy Louise O'Reilly TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

PQ 47043/18 \*To ask the Minister for Health the number of agency locum staff working in the health service or that are employed directly or indirectly by the HSE; the locations in which they are based, that is, hospital, health facility and so on; the profession and speciality of each in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 47044/18 \*To ask the Minister for Health the number of agency and locum consultants in the health service; the locations in which they are based; the speciality of each in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.-Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The use of agency or locum Consultant can be for varying periods of time depending on the reason for the vacancy. Agency or locum posts can be put in place for example to cover unplanned Consultant leave and critically to ensure continuity of service and safety of care.

As such the numbers of agency locum Consultants engaged at any week can fluctuate across hospitals and specialties. This is monitored and reviewed at local hospital level and hospital groups close to where services are delivered.

Expenditure on engaging locum and agency doctors is closely monitored at all levels in the organisation.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TD' with a horizontal line underneath.

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Trina Doran  
General Manager  
Acute Operations