



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

OFFICE OF THE CEO
SOUTH / SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL GROUP
ERINVILLE
WESTERN ROAD
CORK
Tel: 021 – 4921509

7th February 2020

Deputy Stephen Donnelly, T.D.,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 52246/19

***To ask the Minister for Health the number of nursing positions vacant in the South/South West hospital group as of 6 December 2019- Stephen Donnelly**

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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 and please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in responding to this query. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

The Health Service Executive does not operate a vacancy rate per say, and it is important to note that nursing posts may become vacant due to episodes of absences which may be planned or unplanned. Due to the dynamic nature of the health services and the service demands which regularly fluctuate, the organisation has to work within a high degree of flexibility to ensure that appropriate services are delivered to our patients. Within the multi-disciplinary approach in our health services direct patient care is delivered by nurses, healthcare assistants over the 24/7 period. Where staff may be absent due to sick leave, maternity leave etc. management make the necessary arrangements to ensure an appropriate level of staffing is provided.

This is undertaken in the dynamic and ever changing environment within the HSE settings via the utilization of a high degree of flexibility, whilst ensuring the most appropriate level of skill mix is available to meet service demands.

Hospitals across the S/SWHG use overtime and /or locum cover when same is possible being mindful of the funding envelop.

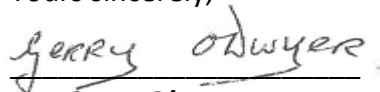
The hospitals across the S/SWHG continue to recruit nursing staff on an on-going basis where required.

The published census data to include Nursing levels for the S/SWHG is available on:
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/south-south-west-hospital-group.html>

The hospitals within the South/ South West Hospital Group do not currently have an IT system that captures this data, however, we are currently following up on this request manually and an update will be provided to you next week.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you require any clarification on the above matter or have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer

CEO,

South/South West Hospital Group

E-mail ceo.sswhg@hse.ie