



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
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Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road
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30 December 2019

Deputy Stephen S. Donnelly

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 52267/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff at national director level, assistant national director level, general manager level and grade VIII level in the HSE on 6 December 2019 or the latest date available.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions in relation to staffing numbers which was forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for direct reply.

Health services employment is reported on a monthly basis through the Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC) which is the official employment count for the public health sector covering the HSE and Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals & Agencies. Information in this response is as per the grade assigned in HSPC returns with numbers equating to service levels are expressed as whole time equivalents (WTE) taking account of part-time working.

At 30th November 2019 (latest date available), there were 137,737 personnel (equating to 119,532 WTE) directly employed in the provision of Health and Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 organisations. These staff and services need to be administered and managed and the large majority of management, clerical & administrative staff (84%) are employed in the front facing services of Hospital, Ambulance, Community Health & Wellbeing, Screening, Environmental Health PCRS etc. and the remainder in central areas such as Finance, Human Resources, ICT (including eHealth), Cancer Control, Clinical Strategy etc.) together with Health Business Services (Recruitment, Estates, Procurement, Payroll etc.).

Front-line staff must be supported by other services and many personnel perform both frontline and other duties and therefore the importance of the need for management & administrative function with management clerical and administrative personnel accounting for one-seventh of all staff. For example, clerical support enables medical consultants operate more efficiently by scheduling care, diagnostics, appointments etc. No hospital can operate without a manager to look after budgets, staff and buildings. No public health department can prepare for

emergencies or plan for a flu pandemic nor can any of our services exist without recruitment or payroll.

The Deputy will be interested to note that staff at National Director, Assistant National Director, General Manager and Grade VIII level account for just 1 in more than 100 of all staff and that almost two-thirds of these senior staff are employed in the front facing services of Hospital, Ambulance, Community and Health & Wellbeing and the remainder in central areas such as Finance, Human Resources, ICT (including eHealth), Cancer Control, Clinical Strategy, Corporate Planning & Control, Internal Audit, Communications, Primary Care Reimbursement Services etc.), together with Health Business Services (Estates, Procurement, Payroll etc.). These staff play the key lead roles not only in the management of our services, but also in relation to increased regulatory and governance functions together with the on-going significant restructuring of the health services.

In relation to the Deputy's specific query, at 30th November there were 1,428 WTE staff employed at Grade VIII and above (which includes Grade VIII's, General Managers, Assistant National Directors and National Directors) in the HSE. Details as requested by the Deputy are set-out in the following table:

Health Service Executive Staffing at National Director, Assistant National Director, General Manager & Grade VIII (November 2019)

	WTE 30 Nov 2019	% Total	No. 30 Nov 2019	% Total
Total HSE	1,428	100%	1,467	100%
National Director	15	1.1%	16	1.1%
Assistant National Director level	141	9.9%	143	9.7%
General Manager & Grade VIII	1,175	82.2%	1,210	82.4%
Other Senior Managers	96	6.8%	98	6.7%

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

Note ¹: Figures relating to service levels are express as while-time equivalents (WTE) in order to take account of part-time working.

Workforce levels are updated monthly and are available at: <https://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