



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

7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Deputy Michael McGrath, T.D.,  
Constituency Office,  
Main Street,  
Carrigaline,  
Co Cork.

Re: PQ 53526/19

**\*To ask the Minister for Health the number of nursing and consultant vacancies in each hospital in County Cork in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**  
**Michael McGrath**

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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 consultant and 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 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 for both hospital consultants and nursing staff.

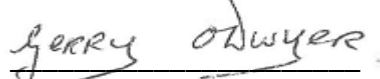
Hospitals across the S/SWHG use overtime and /or locum cover when same is possible being mindful of the funding envelop.

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

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gerry O'Dwyer', is written over a horizontal line.

**Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer**

**CEO,**

**South/South West Hospital Group**

**E-mail [ceo.sswhg@hse.ie](mailto:ceo.sswhg@hse.ie)**