



**Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa**

Ionad Gnó Shoird  
Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord.  
Co. Átha Cliath, K67D8H0

**Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence**

Health Service Executive  
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road  
Swords,  
Co. Dublin, K67D8H0

6 March 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

PQ 8571/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number public health nurses employed by the HSE in each of the years 2011 to 2018, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to numbers of personnel employed in the public health service 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 as returned through the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC), which is the official employment count for the public health sector (HSE and Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals & Agencies), however, in this instance I should point out that Public Health Nurses are solely employed by the HSE and not by any Section 38 organisation. 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. In order to provide the Deputy with complete information, the response to this question has been expanded to encompass details for all HSE Public Health Nurses including a small number in Hospital Services as well as Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs).

In relation to the Deputy's central question, at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, there were 135,742 personnel (equating to 117,857 WTE) directly employed in the provision of Health and Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 organisations and of which 1,811 (1,541 WTE) were Public Health Nurses. This represents a 9 WTE fall over the December 2011 figure. Details as requested by the Deputy, by Community Healthcare Area (together with other service areas), are set out in the following table:

## Public Health Nurses (2011-2018)

by Hospital Group/ CHO to 2018	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Change Dec 2011 to Dec 2018
<b>Total Public Health Nurse</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>1,517</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>-9</b>
Saolta University Hospital Care	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	-0.1
<b>Acute Services</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-0</b>
CHO 1	167	169	162	161	153	146	153	155	-12
CHO 2	170	162	161	165	178	176	174	187	+17
CHO 3	124	121	123	119	117	114	120	124	-0
CHO 4	230	221	220	208	217	216	217	218	-12
CHO 5	170	168	160	162	164	167	164	168	-2
CHO 6	114	112	108	104	114	118	123	118	+4
CHO 7	176	173	182	175	178	181	187	195	+20
CHO 8	204	202	196	195	194	199	198	197	-7
CHO 9	190	184	177	169	181	177	173	173	-17
<b>Community Services</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>-10</b>
Health & Wellbeing	3	3	3	2	5	3	4	4	+1
Corporate								-	+0

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

Note<sup>1</sup>: Health Sector staffing figures relate to direct employment levels as returned through the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC) for the public health sector (HSE & Section 38 Voluntary Agencies).

Note<sup>2</sup>: Figures relating to service levels are express as while-time equivalents (WTE) in order to take account of part-time working.

The Deputy will also be interested to note that, additionally, there are 1,153 (880 WTE) Staff Nurses & Midwives directly engaged in Primary Care Services and that this represents a 159 WTE increase over the December 2011 figure. Finally, the Deputy will wish to know the total number of nurses working in Primary Care services at 31 December was 1,842 (2,995) and that this represents a 271 WTE increase since 2011.

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