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19/03/2019

Deputy Brendan Griffin,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

PQ 9341/19

To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter (details supplied) in relation to the use of agency staff in the health service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Brendan Griffin

Dear Deputy Griffin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

Expenditure on agency staff should be considered in the overall context including increasing demand for services; the impact of earlier constraints on recruitment in the public service; on-going issues to with the recruitment and retention of clinical staff; actions necessary to support compliance with the European Working Time Directive and efforts to reduce expenditure on agency staff.

Agency pay cost is constantly under review. Agency staff are used where there is difficulty in recruiting and employing hospital staff and where there is a short-term critical need. Agency is also used for flexibility to allow for variation in activity and as required to meet patient demand needs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Walsh".

David Walsh,  
National Director Community Operations