



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais
Feidhmeannacht na
Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seomra 125, Ospidéal
Dr. Steevens
BÁC 8

Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Health Service Executive
Room 125, Dr Steevens
Hospital
Dublin 8

18th July 2019

Deputy Stephen S Donnelly TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 28944 19: *To ask the Minister for Health the amount the HSE spent on agency staff in each month to date in 2019; the equivalent figures for each month in 2018; the proportion of the anticipated agency staff expenditure of the HSE for 2019 that has been incurred to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

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. Your PQ above has been referred to me for response.

Please see Table 1 below which shows the total HSE Agency costs (Statutory and Voluntary) for the period January to May 2019 and the equivalent figures for January to May 2018. The data was sourced from the HSE Management Data Report for May 2019, being the most recent available data.

Table 1

Agency Costs by Month for January to May 2019 & 2018		
HSE Statutory & Voluntary		
	2019	2018
Month	€000s	€000s
January	35,657	32,304
February	33,370	30,639
March	34,255	30,565
April	33,351	31,879
May	35,884	34,250
Total YTD May Agency Costs	172,518	159,637

Source: HSE Management Data Reports

The proportion of the HSE's anticipated agency staff expenditure for 2019 that has been incurred to date (Jan to May 2019) is 53.9% based on current full year anticipated agency spend. The HSE continuously monitors agency staff expenditure and revises estimates in line with service requirements.

This expenditure should be considered in the overall context including increasing demand for services; the impact of earlier constraints on recruitment in the public service; ongoing challenges in relation to 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 under constant review. Agency staff are used where there is a difficulty in recruiting and employing hospital staff and where there is a short-term critical service need. Agency is also used for flexibility to allow for variation in activity and as required to meet patient demand needs.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at sarah.anderson1@hse.ie or tel: 045 882559.

Yours sincerely



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