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26th July 2019

Deputy Stephen Donnelly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 30694/19 To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a report on the assessment of midwifery workforce levels against the 2016 Birth Rate Plus methodology within the context of the new model of care.**

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I have included a table below outlining midwifery staffing figures as identified and recommended by the Birthrate Plus Report (BR+) across each of the 19 maternity services and the actual midwifery staffing levels as per HSE employment census (31 January 2019). Please note that both the Birthrate Plus figures presented and the HSE census figures will include staffing personnel such as Directors of Midwifery, Clinical Midwife Managers, Clinical Midwife Specialists, Senior Midwives, Staff Midwives and Midwifery Students where applicable. The HSE's census figures will not include other staff that may be directly involved in the provision of maternity care in the 19 services such as theatre nurses, general nurses and ultrasonographers from a radiography professional background. This table indicates that additional 2 Whole Time Equivalents (WTE) are required to meet the overall BR+ recommendation.

In addition to BR+, since 2017 funding has been allocated for an additional 148.5 WTE Midwives. These posts are specifically to support the implementation of the National Maternity Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kilian McGrane', written in a cursive style.

Kilian McGrane
National Programme Director, National Women and Infants Health Programme

| | Maternity Hospital | Birthrate Plus Review overall recommended need (WTE includes clinical & mgmt) | Actual WTE at time of Review (includes clinical & mgmt) | Variance in staffing from this Recommendation at time of Review) | Midwifery Staffing (WTE) (Jan. 2019; HSE Census) | Overall variance in Birthrate Plus Recommendation and Jan. 2019 (HSE Census) |
|----|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital | 276.38 | 238.73 | -37.65 | 259 | -17.38 |
| 2 | Cork University Maternity Hospital | 255.48 | 241.47 | -14.01 | 277 | 21.52 |
| 3 | National Maternity Hospital | 291.39 | 251.47 | -39.92 | 306 | 14.61 |
| 4 | Rotunda Hospital | 280.35 | 234.5 | -45.85 | 252 | -28.35 |
| 5 | Our Lady of Lourdes, Drogheda | 114.66 | 123.86 | 9.2 | 121 | 6.34 |
| 6 | University Maternity Hospital Limerick | 147.2 | 129.73 | -17.47 | 199 | 51.8 |
| 7 | University Hospital Galway | 95.81 | 108.41 | 12.6 | 90 | -5.81 |
| 8 | Midlands Regional Hospital, Mullingar | 62.62 | 46.5 | -16.12 | 61 | -1.62 |
| 9 | Wexford General Hospital | 52.81 | 43.5 | -9.31 | 52 | -0.81 |
| 10 | St Luke's Hospital Kilkenny | 50.67 | 50.57 | -0.1 | 49 | -1.67 |
| 11 | Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise | 69.37 | 70 | 0.63 | 44 | -25.37 |
| 12 | Letterkenny University Hospital | 56.4 | 53.3 | -3.1 | 46 | -10.4 |
| 13 | Mayo University Hospital | 49.19 | 44.8 | -4.39 | 37 | -12.19 |
| 14 | Sligo University Hospital | 47.94 | 46.57 | -1.37 | 54 | 6.06 |
| 15 | Portiuncula University Hospital | 52.35 | 51.8 | -0.55 | 57 | 4.65 |
| 16 | Cavan Hospital | 54.58 | 48.5 | -6.08 | 57 | 2.42 |
| 17 | University Hospital Waterford | 58.48 | 51.8 | -6.68 | 48 | -10.48 |
| 18 | South Tipperary General Hospital | 30.62 | 30.77 | 0.15 | 38 | 7.38 |
| 19 | Kerry University Hospital | 42.99 | 44.87 | 1.88 | 40 | -2.99 |
| | Total | 2,089.29 | 1,911.15 | -178.14 | 2087 | -2.29 |