



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

7th August 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

***Re PQ 31723 19:** To ask the Minister for Health the amount the HSE spent on agency staff in each month to date in 2019, by occupation, hospital and community healthcare organisation in tabular form; the equivalent figures for each month in 2018; and the proportion of the anticipated agency staff expenditure of the HSE for 2019 that has been incurred to date*

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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 **Appendix 1** attached (separate email attachment) comprising **Tables 1 and 2**. **Table 1** provides the HSE Agency Staff costs by Staff category by Hospital and CHO area for each month for the period January to May 2019, being the most recent available data. **Table 2** provides the HSE Agency Staff costs by Staff category by Hospital and CHO area for each equivalent month for the period January to May 2018.

The data was sourced from the HSE Consolidated Financial Intelligence System (CFI) and is for HSE Statutory services only.

The proportion of the HSE's anticipated agency staff expenditure for 2019 that has been incurred to date (Jan to May 2019) is 52.7% 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

Sarah Anderson

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