



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

10<sup>th</sup> July 2019

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

**Re PQ 27011 19:** *To ask the Minister for Health the spend by the HSE on agency staff to date in 2019; and the proportion of the projected spend for agency staff originally estimated for 2019 that has now been used up. - Stephen S. Donnelly*

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.

Total HSE Agency costs (Statutory and Voluntary) for year to date May 2019 is €172.5m, sourced from the HSE Management Data Report for May 2019 and is draft awaiting finalisation.

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](mailto:sarah.anderson1@hse.ie) or tel: 045 882559.

Yours sincerely

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