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18th July 2019

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

PQ Ref 27264/19 To ask the Minister for Health the estimated additional cost of ensuring all maternity hospitals meet the Birthrate Plus standard for midwifery staffing.**

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

I apologise for the delay in responding to you. Please see the 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 31 January 2019 as recorded to the HSE employment census. Both the BR+ figures presented and the HSE census figures 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 do 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 BR+ recommendation.

170 additional midwives have been approved and funded since the BR+ Review was launched. The approximate investment to date has been €8.5m. This is based on the average cost of a Staff Midwife.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Kilian McGrane
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