



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa

Ionad Gnó Shoird
Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord.
Co. Átha Cliath, K67D8H0

Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence

Health Service Executive
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road
Swords,
Co. Dublin, K67D8H0

27 March 2019

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 12614/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of extra nurses, doctors, consultants and all other staff employed by the public health sector in each of the past five years to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Durkan,

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions in relation to staffing numbers which was forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for direct reply.

Health services employment is reported on a monthly basis through the Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC) which is the official employment count for the public health sector covering the HSE *and* Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals & Agencies. Numbers equating to service levels are expressed as whole time equivalents (WTE) taking account of part-time working. At 28th February 2019, there were 137,367 personnel (equating to 118,096 WTE) directly employed in the provision of Health and Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 organisations.

The largest grouping are nurses and midwives who form almost one-third of our staff, followed by Patient & Client Care at 31% of all staff in WTE terms. Health & Social Care Professionals (Therapy Professions, Health Science/ Diagnostics, Social Care, Social Workers, Psychologists, Pharmacy and so on) and Management Clerical & Administrative personnel constitute 14% and 16% of personnel respectively. Medical & Dental staffing (Consultants, Registrars, Senior House Officers, Interns and other Doctors & Dentists) are a combined 9% with Support personnel (cleaning, catering, portering and maintenance etc.) at 8% of our workforce.

Health Service staffing for each category of staff (including those specified by the Deputy) for the latest available date (February 2019) and the equivalent date five years ago (February 2014), together with year-on-year movement as specified by the Deputy are set out in the following table:

Staff Category/ Staff Group	Feb 2014	Feb 2019	Change 2014-2015	Change 2015-2016	Change 2016-2017	Change 2017-2018	Change 2018-2019
Total Health Service	101,304	118,096	+2,526	+4,433	+2,870	+3,742	+3,221
Consultants	2,565	3,095	+78	+104	+133	+98	+117
Registrars	2,637	3,559	+201	+242	+142	+215	+122
SHO/ Interns	2,417	3,028	+264	+128	+82	+82	+55
Medical/ Dental, other	709	744	-11	+24	+8	+2	+12
Medical & Dental	8,328	10,426	+532	+498	+365	+397	+306
Nurse/ Midwife Manager	6,267	7,707	+356	+367	+286	+213	+218
Nurse/ Midwife Specialist & AN/MP	1,250	1,861	+100	+158	+89	+141	+122
Staff Nurse/ Staff Midwife	24,435	25,367	-64	+304	+75	+471	+146
Public Health Nurse	1,474	1,448	-3	+11	+4	+23	-64
Nursing/ Midwifery Student	881	993	+5	+2	+8	+102	-5
Nursing/ Midwifery other	310	307	-20	+12	+2	+3	+1
Nursing & Midwifery	34,618	37,683	+376	+853	+464	+954	+419
Therapy Professions	4,125	5,267	+175	+297	+261	+205	+205
Health Science/ Diagnostics	3,820	4,412	+111	+215	+69	+81	+117
Social Care	1,879	2,617	+7	+236	+186	+164	+144
Social Workers	996	1,172	-17	+101	+49	+29	+14
Psychologists	790	1,000	+47	+50	+39	+42	+32
Pharmacy	691	970	+58	+70	+47	+53	+51
H&SC, Other	1,050	1,112	+7	+25	+17	+17	-5
Health & Social Care	13,351	16,549	+385	+993	+669	+592	+559
Management (VIII & above)	1,091	1,755	+123	+135	+117	+162	+126
Administrative/ Supervisory (V to VII)	3,606	4,936	+19	+201	+279	+376	+455
Clerical (III & IV)	10,379	11,971	+9	+708	+281	+315	+278
Management & Administrative	15,077	18,662	+151	+1,045	+677	+853	+860
Support	8,282	8,260	-141	+95	-51	+64	+10
Maintenance/ Technical	1,278	1,185	-44	-14	-32	-9	+6
General Support	9,561	9,445	-185	+81	-83	+55	+16
Health Care Assistants	12,523	17,125	+1,186	+1,101	+748	+717	+851
Home Help	3,669	3,513	+59	-235	-105	+53	+73
Ambulance Staff	1,528	1,779	+7	+47	+71	+89	+36
Care, other	2,651	2,913	+14	+49	+64	+33	+102
Patient & Client Care	20,370	25,331	+1,266	+963	+778	+892	+1,061

Note 1: Health Sector staffing figures relate to direct employment levels as returned through the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC) for the public health sector (HSE & Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals & Agencies).

Note 2: Figures relating to service levels are expressed as while-time equivalents (WTE) in order to take account of part-time working.

Note 3: Pre-registration Student Nurses on clinical placement are recorded @ 50% actual WTE in line with WRC agreement.

It is important to point out that not all the information is directly comparable as coupled with additional demands based on an ageing population together with increased complexity and levels of care, the HSE has subsumed some agencies & services and put substantial service developments, organisational reform (including the introduction of Hospital Groups and Community Healthcare Organisations) in place over this timeframe. In addition, the rate of change is also impacted by labour market forces such as availability of staff groups with known supply challenges, for example nurses, midwives and consultants.

Workforce levels are updated monthly and are available at:
<https://hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/>

I trust that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Des Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Des Williams
General Manager