



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

28 May 2019

Deputy Fiona O'Loughlin
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 20672/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of counsellors and psychotherapists employed by the HSE in each of the year 2014 to 2018 and to date in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 20671/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of counsellors and psychotherapists employed by the HSE nationally and in County Kildare; his plans to increase current levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy O'Loughlin,

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions in relation to numbers of personnel employed in the public health service which was forwarded to the HSE by the Department of Health for direct reply.

Firstly, I should point out that staffing figures provided generally relate to direct employment levels as returned through the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC), which is the official employment count for the public health sector (HSE & Section 38 Voluntary Agencies). Numbers equating to service levels are expressed as whole-time equivalents (WTE) taking account of part-time working, whereas headcount figures give the number of individuals, based on staff category and approved health service grades. Psychotherapy is not generally classified as a grade in these terms, whereas, both Counsellor Therapists and Psychologists feature in employment returns.

In relation to the Deputy's central question, at 30th April 2019 there were 137,993 personnel (equating to 119,379 WTE) directly employed in the provision of Health and Social Care Services and of which 259 (234 WTE) were Counsellor Therapists. The Deputy will be interested to note that this figure represent a 41 WTE increase over the period covered by this request.

As health care services are not organised on a county basis but on the basis of Hospital Groups and Community Healthcare Organisations, delivering their services on the basis of their respective catchment areas, this response is formatted on the basis of this configuration. With this in mind the numbers for County Kildare form part of the figures for CHO Area 7 in the tables supplied. Details for the number of counsellor therapists by this organisational structure are set out in the in the following table:

Service Area	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Apr 2019	change since Dec 14
Total Counsellor Therapists	193	207	224	234	227	234	+41
Children's Health Ireland	1	1	1	1	1	1	+0
Ireland East Hospital Group	2	2	3	3	3	2	-0
RCSI Hospitals Group	1	1	1	1	1	1	+0
Saolta University Hospital Care	1	1	1	1	1	1	+0
Acute Services	5	5	6	6	6	5	-0
CHO 1 (North-West)	18	20	18	21	20	21	+3
CHO 2 (West)	8	9	10	11	12	11	+3
CHO 3 (Midwest)	16	14	11	10	13	14	-2
CHO 4 (South-West)	24	31	43	43	41	41	+16
CHO 5 (South-East)	15	14	22	20	20	22	+7
CHO 6 (Dublin SE /Wicklow)	7	7	6	6	4	4	-3
CHO 7 (Dublin SW /Kildare)	33	31	31	33	31	32	-1
CHO 8 (Midlands/ North-East)	28	34	35	40	39	38	+10
CHO 9 (Dublin North)	36	38	37	39	37	38	+2
other Community Services	3	3	3	4	3	3	+0
Community Services	187	201	217	226	218	225	+37
H&WB Corporate & National Services		1	1	2	3	4	+4

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) & calculated to 2 decimals in order to take account of part-time working.

The Deputy will wish to note that the HSE also employs 1,140 (1,010 WTE) professionally qualified clinical, counselling and educational psychologists. Historically clinical psychologists formed the vast majority of psychologists as this branch of psychology was specifically relevant to the Mental Health Services. In recent years with the developments in professional training of counselling psychology and changes to models of care in adult, child and adolescence mental health services has facilitated the HSE employing an increasing number of these staff. HSE currently in the process of recoding psychologists by professional qualification, clinical, counselling and educational so that it will have full visibility of the skill mix available to the organisation. In order to provide the Deputy with complete information, the following table shows details for all Psychologists in the public health sector including Hospital Services and Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) and includes numbers employed over the dates requested:

by Service Area	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Apr 2019	change since Dec 14
Total Psychologists	815	887	921	964	985	1,010	+195
Children's Health Ireland	19	27	29	32	37	38	+18
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	13	16	18	16	13	13	-1
Ireland East Hospital Group	11	12	12	13	14	17	+7
RCSI Hospitals Group	8	8	11	10	10	10	+2
Saolta University Hospital Care	0	0	0	0	1	2	+2
South/South West Hospital Group	2	2	2	2	2	2	+0
University of Limerick Group			2	2	2	2	+2
Acute Services	54	65	73	75	79	83	+29
CHO 1 (North-West)	48	53	55	58	61	59	+11
CHO 2 (West)	79	85	83	81	84	80	+2
CHO 3 (Midwest)	110	111	112	122	119	122	+12
CHO 4 (South-West)	95	96	109	116	133	135	+40
CHO 5 (South-East)	69	71	79	78	75	78	+9
CHO 6 (Dublin SE /Wicklow)	72	73	70	68	67	68	-4
CHO 7 (Dublin SW /Kildare)	54	71	69	85	84	88	+34
CHO 8 (Midlands/ North-East)	95	104	99	108	106	116	+21
CHO 9 (Dublin North)	131	152	167	166	170	172	+42
other Community Services	6	4	3	5	6	6	+0
Community Services	758	819	846	887	904	925	+167
H&WB, Corporate & National Services	3	3	2	2	2	2	-1

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) & calculated to 2 decimals in order to take account of part-time working.

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