



**Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa**

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

**Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence**

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

24 May 2019

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

PQ 21150/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of extra nursing staff at all grades that have been employed by the HSE in the past two years; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question 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 and Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals & 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.

In relation to the Deputy's central question, at 30<sup>th</sup> 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 44,368 (38,307 WTE) were nurses & midwives. The Deputy will be interested to note that the number of Nurses & Midwives increased by 2,099 (1,757 WTE) over the period covered by this request.

Details by Nursing & Midwifery Staff Group over the past two years as requested by the Deputy are set out in the following table:

## Public Health Service Nursing & Midwifery (April 2017 - April 2019)

Nursing & Midwifery Wholetime Equivalents (WTE)	Nurse/ Midwife Manager	Nurse/ Midwife Specialist & AN/MP	Staff Nurse/ Staff Midwife	Public Health Nurse	Nursing/ Midwifery Student	Nursing/ Midwifery other	Total Nursing & Midwifery WTE	Total Nursing & Midwifery HC
Apr 2017 WTE	7,340	1,625	24,891	1,489	900	305	<b>36,549</b>	42,269
Apr 2018 WTE	7,559	1,751	25,333	1,508	1,017	309	<b>37,478</b>	43,367
Apr 2019 WTE	7,854	1,937	25,725	1,543	933	315	<b>38,307</b>	44,368
<b>Change Apr 2017 to Apr 2019</b>	<b>+514</b>	<b>+312</b>	<b>+834</b>	<b>+54</b>	<b>+33</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>+1,757</b>	<b>+2,099</b>

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

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 Agencies).

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

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

Finally, nursing & midwifery offers a comprehensive career pathway from Staff Nurse and Midwife to Clinical Specialist or Advanced Practitioner, together with leadership roles in nursing & midwifery management. The Deputy will note the increases in not only the number of Staff Nurses/ Staff Midwives but also in Nurse/ Midwife Managers and Nursing & Midwifery Specialist and Advanced Practice roles. These are key roles in both the provision and oversight of direct patient care activities, and offer enhanced service delivery through for example nurse and midwife led services in a variety of settings across our services.

Workforce levels are updated monthly and are available at:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/>

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

Yours sincerely,



Des Williams  
General Manager