



21 May 2019

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan

**Ref:** PQ Ref 21151/19

Dear Deputy Durkan

I refer to your recent parliamentary question below which was sent to the HSE for reply.

*"To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultants employed throughout the public health sector in the past two years; the extent to which vacancies remain to be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter."*

#### National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) Response

The following data is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) database. The Consultants Module within DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) produces an electronic post record created by the Consultants Division for every consultant post which is approved by the Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC). Sites are then able to assign consultants to their respective posts. The accuracy of the data is reliant on sites input, at present it is 93% compliant.

As of 20 May 2019 there were 3,035 consultants in employment compared to 2,974 consultants in employment on 20 May 2018.

The following table provides a further breakdown of 357 consultant posts which did not have a consultant name assigned to the post in DIME, as of 20 May 2019. 135 of these consultant posts were marked as vacant by the site in DIME and the status of 222 are unknown.

Medical Discipline	Unknown*	Vacant**
Anaesthesia	17	8
Emergency Medicine	14	7
Intensive Care Medicine		2
Medicine	45	37
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	11	3
Paediatrics	16	14
Pathology	28	18
Psychiatry	44	18
Radiology	24	11
Surgery	23	16
Unspecified		1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>135</b>



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\*Unknown status: The site has not yet assigned a consultant to a post or marked a post as vacant therefore this data in DIME is unknown.

\*\*Vacant: a vacant post is a consultant post that the hospital has verified on DIME as currently vacant.

The recording of vacant posts is a new feature of DIME and has only been available for reporting from early 2019.

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