



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

24 may 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 21744/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff working in the health service in each of the years 2008 to 2018 and to date in 2019, by occupation

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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 & 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.

The Deputy will be aware that it is not possible to make valid staffing comparisons across the entirety of the health service over extended timeframes due to a variety of factors but most notably changes in the configuration of the health sector. For example, these include (*on one hand*) the addition of Hospital Groups & Community Healthcare Organisations (CHO), Service Divisions (Primary Care, Mental Health, Older Persons, Disability Services etc.), service developments, agencies subsumed and other responses to demographic changes. In addition, some services are no longer part of the core health sector e.g. Children & Family Services, Community Welfare.

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. Details by Staff Category and occupational group over the period requested by the Deputy are set out in the attached table.

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,

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

Des Williams
General Manager

Health Service Staffing by Staff Group: Dec 2008 to Apr 2019

Staff Category/ Staff group	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Apr 2019
Total Health Service Staffing	115,755	114,064	112,206	108,637	105,251	104,082	103,030	107,275	110,258	114,297	117,857	119,379
Consultants	2,261	2,317	2,412	2,474	2,514	2,555	2,635	2,724	2,862	2,971	3,096	3,095
Registrars	2,615	2,593	2,616	2,669	2,698	2,646	2,775	3,023	3,205	3,403	3,559	3,581
SHO/ Interns	2,382	2,327	2,242	2,410	2,372	2,439	2,708	2,870	2,930	3,014	3,076	3,069
Medical/ Dental, other	852	847	826	778	736	712	700	719	726	733	737	740
Medical & Dental	8,109	8,083	8,096	8,331	8,320	8,353	8,817	9,336	9,723	10,121	10,467	10,485
Nurse/ Midwife Manager	7,481	7,232	6,952	6,727	6,345	6,254	6,602	6,947	7,279	7,434	7,799	7,854
Nurse/ Midwife Specialist & AN/MP	875	912	993	1,107	1,154	1,239	1,332	1,475	1,579	1,706	1,860	1,937
Staff Nurse/ Staff Midwife	27,461	27,011	26,192	25,717	24,889	24,541	24,423	24,749	24,768	25,315	25,595	25,725
Public Health Nurse	1,523	1,558	1,554	1,549	1,517	1,495	1,460	1,501	1,499	1,514	1,541	1,543
Nursing/ Midwifery Student	408	394	450	445	410	336	404	387	405	500	533	933
Nursing/ Midwifery other	360	359	362	358	321	313	289	295	305	308	317	315
Nursing & Midwifery	38,108	37,466	36,503	35,902	34,637	34,178	34,509	35,353	35,835	36,777	37,644	38,307
Therapy Professions	3,751	3,822	4,054	4,030	3,969	4,058	4,254	4,540	4,823	5,057	5,232	5,311
Health Science/ Diagnostics	3,912	3,888	3,898	3,867	3,771	3,796	3,906	4,134	4,234	4,305	4,416	4,419
Social Care	3,435	3,398	3,319	3,277	3,112	3,076	1,908	2,070	2,321	2,467	2,607	2,656
Social Workers	2,079	2,139	2,386	2,400	2,304	2,329	969	1,071	1,130	1,148	1,172	1,173
Psychologists	726	751	768	782	744	786	815	887	921	964	985	1,010
Pharmacy	706	732	718	694	686	679	735	807	854	899	975	985
H&SC, Other	1,372	1,242	1,212	1,167	1,131	1,120	1,053	1,068	1,081	1,109	1,109	1,115
Health & Social Care Professionals	15,980	15,973	16,355	16,217	15,717	15,844	13,640	14,578	15,364	15,950	16,496	16,669
Management & Administrative	17,967	17,611	17,301	15,983	15,726	15,503	15,112	16,164	16,767	17,714	18,504	18,806
General Support	12,574	11,906	11,421	10,450	9,978	9,700	9,419	9,494	9,448	9,454	9,454	9,488
Ambulance Staff	1,066	1,370	1,412	1,464	1,478	1,546	1,556	1,601	1,640	1,745	1,782	1,795
Health Care Assistants	13,620	13,475	13,142	12,928	12,650	12,500	13,627	14,643	15,543	16,222	17,091	17,305
Home Help	4,730	4,311	4,234	4,245	3,746	3,621	3,703	3,390	3,173	3,502	3,552	3,601
Care, other	3,600	3,869	3,741	3,117	3,001	2,837	2,647	2,716	2,765	2,811	2,867	2,924
Patient & Client Care	23,017	23,025	22,529	21,753	20,874	20,504	21,532	22,350	23,122	24,281	25,292	25,625

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

Note¹: Figures relating to service levels are expressed as while-time equivalents (WTE) & take account of part-time working.

Note²: Pre-registration Student Nurses on clinical placement are recorded @ 50% actual WTE