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22nd November 2019

Deputy Jan O'Sullivan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 45381/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the posts in place for community dieticians in mental health, disability and primary care in each of the HSE areas; the plans in place to fill gaps in these services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Jan O'Sullivan

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

There are a total of 576 dieticians employed by the HSE as of October 2019. As requested, the breakdown of dieticians in mental health, social care and primary care as per the Health Services Employment Report October 2019 is as follows;

Table 1

Service Area	WTE Value
Mental Health	19
Disabilities	36
Primary Care	114

Please note that these figures represent a national total per care group, and the figures are not collated by Community Healthcare Organisation.

The HSE expects to continue to grow its workforce in 2019, over 2018 levels. All service posts are critically reviewed, with a view as to how the on-going service requirements might be best met taking account of the budgetary implications of filling such posts.

The HSE has introduced interim control measures to ensure affordable and appropriate recruitment decisions are made, and dietician posts will continue to be reviewed and recruited under this process.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

David Walsh,
National Director,
Community Operations