



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais
Feidhmeannacht na
Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seomra 125, Ospidéal
Dr. Steevens
BÁC 8

Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Health Service Executive
Room 125, Dr Steevens
Hospital
Dublin 8

15th October 2019

Deputy James Browne TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

RE: PQ 39375 19: *To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent by the HSE on agency staff to date and the amount of same spent on mental health agency staff.- James Browne*

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. Your PQ above has been referred to me for response.

Please see the table below which shows the total cost of Agency staff and the total cost of Agency staff for the Mental Health Division for the period January to August 2019, this being the most recent period for which information is available. The data was sourced from the HSE Consolidated Finance Intelligence System (CFI) and the HSE Management Data Reports. Please note that this data is for HSE Statutory and Voluntary services. The 2019 data is draft and unaudited and therefore is subject to change.

HSE Agency Staff Costs for the period January to August 2019	
HSE Statutory & Voluntary Systems	
	Ytd Aug 19 €000s
HSE Total Agency costs	280,989
HSE Agency costs - Mental Health Division	38,585
Source: <i>HSE Consolidated Finance Intelligence System (CFI) & HSE Management Data Reports</i>	
Note: <i>2019 data is draft, unaudited and is subject to change</i>	

Agency expenditure should be considered in the overall context including increasing demand for services; the impact of earlier constraints on recruitment in the public service; on-going challenges in relation to the recruitment and retention of clinical staff; actions necessary to support compliance with the European Working Time Directive and efforts to reduce expenditure on agency staff.

The HSE is committed to minimizing the use of Agency staff but recruitment and retention of Clinical, Nursing and other key staff is a constant challenge and impacts adversely on our ability to maintain

safe and effective services. Agency staffing is also used to allow for flexible services designed to meet specific Service User needs and some short term requirements. Agency pay cost is under constant review and where possible is replaced by HSE staff.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at sarah.anderson1@hse.ie or tel: 045 882559.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Anderson

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