



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

14th October 2019

Deputy Stephen Donnelly TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

PQ 41266/19 * *To ask the Minister for Health the number of unfilled nursing posts by hospital, including the hospitals currently precluded for any reasons from hiring nurses; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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.

The staffing environment of the HSE, and organisations funded by it, is dynamic and is subject to the requirement to operate within the funding envelope provided in line with government policy. The vacating of a position does not in itself create a vacancy as the work of the position may be covered through redeployment, restructuring or reallocation. In addition, where a post has been approved for filling the duties may be covered by agency or overtime in the meantime. It is not possible, therefore, to give a definitive figure for vacancies and information on vacant positions is not routinely collected in the manner sought by the Deputy.

There are control measures in place to ensure that pay costs and WTE (whole time equivalent) levels are at affordable levels in line with the resources provided by government. No hospitals are currently precluded from hiring nurses and year to date there has been an increase of + 460 WTE in this staff category across Acute Hospitals:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/acute-services-employment-report-aug-2019.pdf>

We anticipate further increases arising from recent efforts made by the Hospital Groups in relation to nurse graduate retention. I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

**Carol Ivory, General Manager
HSE National Acute Operations**