



National Doctors Training and Planning
Health Service Executive
Sancton Wood Building, Heuston South Quarter
St John's Road West, Dublin 8

Oiliúint agus Pleanáil Náisiúnta na nDochtúirí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Sancton Wood Building, Ceathrú Heuston Theas
Bóthar Eoin Thiar Baile Atha Cliath 8

Tel: (01) 7959924
E-mail: doctors@hse.ie
www.hse.ie/doctors

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Deputy Grealish
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ Ref 429092/ 20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of permanent consultant posts which are currently unfilled nationally; the number of such posts which are filled on a temporary, locum or agency basis, respectively; the number which are vacant, by area; if it is at hospital level or community level; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Grealish

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) Response

The data contained in this response is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 09.12.2020. DIME is dependent on clinical sites inputting details on their consultant workforce and therefore there may be variances and gaps in the data supplied to that held within clinical sites. As DIME is a live system it must be noted that there can be variances in the figures published dependent on the run date of the report as entries can be made with a retrospective date

The figures relate to CAAC (Consultant Applications Advisory Committee) approved consultant posts.

There are 237 vacant consultant posts although recruitment is underway for the majority of these posts.

Table 1 Permanent Consultant Posts Filled and Vacant

Number of approved consultant posts	Filled	Unknown status	Vacant	Total
Total	3205	4	237	3446

- Filled: The site has assigned a consultant to the post.
- Vacant: The site has verified on DIME that this is a vacant post. Recruitment for the post may be underway.
- Unknown status: The site has not yet assigned a consultant to the post or marked the post as vacant.



Table 2 Number of filled consultant posts by tenure

Hospital Group / CHO	Permanent	Temporary & Locum	Agency	Total
Total	2717	409	79	3205

- Permanent: consultants appointed on a permanent or contract of indefinite duration basis.
- Temporary & Locum: consultants appointed on a fixed term contract or specified purpose contract.
- Agency: consultants engaged via an agency.

Table 3 Vacancies by Hospital Group

Hospital Group	Number of Vacancies
South / South West Hospitals Group	43
RCSI Hospitals Group	33
Ireland East Hospitals Group	30
Children's Health Ireland	23
Saolta Hospitals Group	23
Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group	21
University of Limerick Hospitals Group	19
BreastCheck	7
CHO 9	7
CHO 6	6
Mental Health Services	5
CHO 3	4
CHO 4	4
CHO 7	4
CHO 8	3
CHO 1	2
Other	2
CHO 2	1
Total number of vacant consultant posts	237

Leah O'Toole,
 Assistant National Director
 National Doctors Training and Planning