



18th December 2020

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

PQ 43850/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of approved filled by tenure permanent, temporary, locum, agency and vacant consultant posts by discipline and specialty; the length of time the vacant posts have remained vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane

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.

Table 1: Number of filled consultant posts by tenure				
Filled Consultants Posts	Permanent	Temporary & Locum	Agency	Total
Total	2717	409	79	3205

A vacant post is verified by the site on DIME however, it should be noted that recruitment for the post may be underway and in some cases appointments may have already been made with a prospective start date.

Table 2: Vacancies by medical specialty	
Specialty	Vacancies
Anaesthesiology	11



Cardiology	3
Cardiothoracic Surgery	2
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	6
Clinical Genetics	1
Dermatology	7
Emergency Medicine	8
General Medicine	21
General Surgery	6
Genito-Urinary Medicine	1
Geriatric Medicine	6
Haematology	4
Histopathology	17
Infectious Diseases	6
Intensive Care Medicine	4
Medical Oncology	1
Medical Ophthalmology	4
Microbiology	11
Neurology	3
Neurophysiology	2
Neurosurgery	1
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	15
Ophthalmic Surgery	1
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	1
Orthopaedic Surgery	4
Otolaryngology	3
Paediatric Surgery	1
Paediatrics	21
Palliative Medicine	3
Plastic Surgery	1
Psychiatry	15
Psychiatry of Learning Disability	4
Psychiatry of Old Age	1
Radiation Oncology	2
Radiology	29
Rehabilitation Medicine	6
Urology	5
Total	237

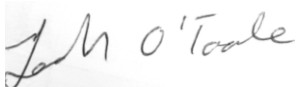
Table 3: Vacant consultant posts by length of time vacant*

Medical Discipline	Vacant for less than 3 years	Vacant for more than 3 years	Total
Radiology	27	4	31

Pathology	29	4	33
Medicine	59	4	63
Psychiatry	24	2	26
Emergency Medicine	7	1	8
Anaesthesiology	10	1	11
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	14	1	15
Paediatrics	20	1	21
Intensive Care Medicine	4	0	4
Surgery	25	0	25
Total	219	18	237

**(ranked by medical discipline with most vacancies over 3 years)*

Posts identified as vacant for more than 3 years have not been approved or filled in the past 3 years.



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