



13 July 2020

Deputy Louise O'Reilly
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ Ref 14155/20

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultant vacancies across the public health service; and his plans to recruit consultants to fill these vacancies".

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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 below is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 01 June 2020. The Consultants Module within DIME produces an electronic post record created by the Consultants Division for every consultant post which is approved by the Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC). Sites are then able to assign consultants to their respective posts. DIME is dependent on clinical sites inputting details on their consultant workforce. Currently there is an estimated 99% compliance rate 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.

There are currently 271 consultant posts recorded in DIME which clinical sites have verified as vacant.

Medical Discipline	Status: Vacant	Status: unknown	Total
Anaesthesiology	14		14
Emergency Medicine	6		6
Intensive Care Medicine	3		3
Medicine	72	3	75
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	14		14
Paediatrics	27	1	28
Pathology	36	1	37
Psychiatry	40	15	55
Radiology	29		29
Surgery	30		30
Total	271	20	291



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There are a further 20 consultant posts whose status is currently unknown as the clinical site has not yet assigned a consultant to the post or verified if the post is vacant.

Once a consultant post is approved it may then be advertised by the relevant employer/PAS. All posts would be in various stages of the recruitment process.

Yours sincerely

Eddie Staddon
General Manager
National Doctors Training and Planning