



06 August 2020

Deputy Pat Buckley,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ Ref 20634/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultant psychiatric posts across the health services; the number filled by permanent consultant, temporarily filled and those currently vacant; and the length of each vacancy”.

Dear Deputy Buckley

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 Table 1 is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 01 July 2020. 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 492 Psychiatry consultant posts which have been approved by the Consultant Application Advisory Committee (CAAC). 441 of those posts are currently filled and 40 posts are recorded on DIME as vacant, as verified by the clinical sites.

Table 1: Approved Consultant Psychiatry posts on 01 July 2020 by post status including breakdown of tenure for filled posts.

Medical Discipline	Posts Filled		Posts with Unknown status	Vacant posts	CAAC approved posts
Psychiatry	441		11	40	492
	Permanent	Non-permanent			
	339	102			



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There are 11 consultant posts where the status is currently unknown as the clinical site has not yet assigned a consultant to the post or verified if the post is vacant on DIME.

The facility for reporting on vacancies from DIME was introduced in early 2019 and it is therefore not possible to provide data on length of vacancies prior to that time. For posts that have been confirmed as vacant, Table 2 below is a breakdown of the length of time that the post has been remained unfilled since the post was approved/last filled.

Table 2: Length of time that approved consultant psychiatry posts have been vacant

Duration of being vacant	Number of posts
<1 year	17
1+ years	23
Total number of vacancies	40

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

Yours sincerely

Eddie Staddon
General Manager
National Doctors Training and Planning