



**Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte

Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'

Baile Átha Cliath 8

**Office of the National Director of Human Resources**

Health Service Executive

Dr. Steevens' Hospital

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Richard Boyd Barrett T.D.

24<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

**PQ34966/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number and nature of vacant positions in the HSE by role and sector and the length of time the position has been held vacant - Richard Boyd Barrett**

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question above which was sent to the HSE for reply.

Health Service employment is reported on a monthly basis through the Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC) which is the official employment count for the public sector covering the HSE and Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals and Agencies. Numbers equating to service levels are expressed as whole-time equivalents (WTE) taking account of part-time working, whereas headcount figures give the number of individuals.

The staffing environment of the HSE, and organisations funded by it are 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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie O'Sullivan".

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**Marie O'Sullivan**  
**National HR**