



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais  
Feidhmeannacht na  
Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Seomra 125, Ospidéal  
Dr. Steevens  
BÁC 8

Office of the Chief Financial Officer  
Health Service Executive  
Room 125, Dr Steevens  
Hospital  
Dublin 8

15<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Deputy Alan Kelly TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ 27936 20:** *To ask the Minister for Health the spend on agency staff in each HSE hospital from January to September 2020, by month in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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. Your PQ above has been referred to me for response.

Please see **Appendix 1** attached (separate email attachment) which provides the HSE Agency Staff costs for statutory services within the HSE Acute Hospitals Division, by hospital group and by hospital, for each month for the period January to August 2020 which is the latest data available.

The data was sourced from the HSE Consolidated Financial Intelligence system and is for HSE Statutory services only. Please note that the 2020 data is draft only and is subject to change within the year end audit process.

In 2020 the HSE have sourced additional agency staff primarily to support the expansion of the workforce in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and also to support service delivery and COVID-19 response due to increased staff absence due to COVID-19.

Agency expenditure is under constant review and the reduction and control of agency costs continues to be a particular focus for the Health Service. The effective management of variable pay costs forms a major element of operational cost-containment plans and is subject to continuous review at the performance meetings held under the performance and accountability framework. However, it is important to note that in addition to the specific critical response to the Covid 19 pandemic there are a variety of reasons driving agency demand. These include, but are not limited to the replacement of short term illness, maternity leave and challenges to recruiting and retaining Clinical health professionals.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sarah.anderson1@hse.ie](mailto:sarah.anderson1@hse.ie) or tel: 087 9423319.

Yours sincerely

*Sarah Anderson*

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