



28th October 2020

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

Ref: PQ Ref 30694/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of approved consultant posts in the health service; the number of vacant approved posts; the number of recommended consultant posts; 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.

The data contained in this response is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 12 October 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.

Table 1. Status of Consultant Posts, approved through Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC)	
Number of consultant posts filled	3181
Number of consultant posts vacant*	236
Number of consultant posts current status unknown**	3
Total	3420
* Vacant: a vacant post is a consultant post that the hospital has verified on DIME as currently vacant.	
**Unknown status: refers to when the site has not yet assigned a consultant to a post or marked a post as vacant and therefore the status of this post is currently unknown in DIME.	

The report of the National Task Force on Medical Staffing (Hanly Report, 2003) was developed on behalf of the Department of Health to propose recommendations on medical staffing to meet the requirements of the European Working Time Directive (EWTB), to plan for the implementation of a



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consultant-provided service, to address the medical education and training needs associated with the EWTD and the move to a consultant-provided service.

A copy of the report is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8736d0-report-of-the-national-task-force-on-medical-staffing-hanly-report/>

Yours sincerely

Leah O'Toole
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