



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
Ionad Gnó Shoird
Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord.
Co. Átha Cliath, K67D8H0
Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence
Health Service Executive
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road
Swords,
Co. Dublin, K67D8H0

30 September 2020

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 16791/20: To ask the Minister for Health the number of health workers in employment in terms of whole-time equivalents and by profession; the way in which this has increased in view of Covid-19 in terms of whole-time equivalents and by profession; his plans for permanently allocating the funding to increase capacity across the health service; the number and category of whole-time equivalents he will fund as a result; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to staffing numbers which was forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for direct reply.

Health services employment is reported on a monthly basis through the Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC) which is the official employment count for the public health sector covering the HSE and Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals & Agencies. Information in this response is as per the staff category and staff groupings assigned in HSPC returns with numbers equating to service levels expressed as whole time equivalents (WTE) taking account of part-time working and headcount equating to the number of individuals.

At 31st August 2020, there were 124,705 WTE (equating to 142,807 personnel) directly employed in the provision of Health and Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 organisations. As referred to by the Deputy, this figure represents a 4,429 (3.7%) reported *net* WTE increase over the period 29 February 2020 to 31 August 2020 (the first case of COVID-19 in Ireland was reported on 29 February) and does not represent the number of personnel recruited to deal with the pandemic.

For the Deputy's information, the following table sets out staff WTE for the period referred to above (February to August 2020), showing the change by staff grouping (profession):

Staff Category/ Staff group	WTE Feb 2020	WTE Aug 2020	Change since 29/02	% change since 29/02	HC Feb 2020	HC Aug 2020
Total Health Service Staffing	120,276	124,705	+4,429	+3.7%	139,187	142,807
Medical & Dental	10,802	11,697	+895	+8.3%	11,664	12,732
Consultants	3,262	3,411	+149	+4.6%	3,578	3,723
Registrars	3,666	3,869	+203	+5.6%	3,779	4,082
Interns	723	1,083	+359	+49.7%	750	1,111
Senior House Officer	2,355	2,515	+160	+6.8%	2,456	2,685
SHO/ Interns	3,078	3,598	+519	+16.9%	3,206	3,796
Medical/ Dental, other	796	819	+24	+3.0%	1,101	1,131

Staff Category/ Staff group (continued)	WTE Feb 2020	WTE Aug 2020	Change since 29/02	% change since 29/02	HC Feb 2020	HC Aug 2020
Nursing & Midwifery	38,780	39,811	+1,031	+2.7%	45,066	45,399
Nurse/ Midwife Manager	8,016	8,231	+214	+2.7%	8,820	9,015
Nurse/ Midwife Specialist & AN/MP	2,055	2,158	+103	+5.0%	2,317	2,440
Staff Nurse/ Staff Midwife	25,750	25,985	+234	+0.9%	29,897	30,111
Public Health Nurse	1,518	1,497	-22	-1.4%	1,815	1,795
Pre-registration Nurse/ Midwife Intern	701	55	-646	-92.1%	1,427	56
Pre-registration Nurse Intern (COVID-19)		1,294	+1,294			1,341
Post-registration Nurse/ Midwife Student	288	193	-95	-33.1%	292	196
Nursing/ Midwifery awaiting registration	102	34	-68	-66.4%	107	37
Nursing/ Midwifery Student	1,092	1,577	+484	+44.3%	1,826	1,630
Nursing/ Midwifery other	348	365	+17	+4.8%	391	408
Health & Social Care Professionals	16,845	17,403	+558	+3.3%	19,306	19,840
Therapy Professions	5,261	5,477	+216	+4.1%	6,113	6,340
Health Science/ Diagnostics	4,577	4,785	+208	+4.5%	5,120	5,313
Social Care	2,702	2,788	+86	+3.2%	3,200	3,260
Social Workers	1,168	1,180	+12	+1.1%	1,314	1,331
Psychologists	1,004	1,028	+24	+2.4%	1,148	1,164
Pharmacy	1,060	1,118	+59	+5.5%	1,192	1,259
H&SC, Other	1,073	1,027	-46	-4.3%	1,219	1,173
Management & Administrative	18,899	19,361	+462	+2.4%	21,204	21,643
Management (VIII & above)	1,853	1,923	+70	+3.8%	1,908	1,979
Administrative/ Supervisory (V to VII)	5,256	5,574	+318	+6.0%	5,666	5,997
Clerical (III & IV)	11,790	11,864	+74	+0.6%	13,630	13,667
General Support	9,478	9,958	+480	+5.1%	11,005	11,386
Support	8,291	8,748	+458	+5.5%	9,782	10,137
Maintenance/ Technical	1,187	1,209	+22	+1.9%	1,223	1,249
Patient & Client Care	25,472	26,475	+1,002	+3.9%	30,942	31,807
Health Care Assistants	17,257	18,379	+1,122	+6.5%	19,921	21,085
Ambulance Staff	1,841	1,834	-7	-0.4%	1,883	1,881
Home Help	3,447	3,368	-79	-2.3%	5,632	5,383
Care, other	2,927	2,894	-33	-1.1%	3,506	3,458

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

Note 1: Health Sector staffing figures relate to direct employment levels as returned through the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC) for the public health sector (HSE & Section agencies)

Note 2: Figures relating to service levels are expressed as whole-time equivalents (WTE) in order to take account of part-time working.

Note 3: Health Care Assistants includes Student Nurse Year 1-3 contracted as HCA's

Note 4: Pre-registration Student Nurses on clinical placement are recorded @ 50% actual WTE in line with a WRC agreement whereas when these personnel are employed as HCAs they are reported under the same methodology as other grades.

The change in employment figures, reflecting growth in overall employment levels, reflects the expansion of the workforce required in the immediate response to COVID-19. As our response to COVID-19 continues to evolve, this new healthcare landscape will require a service response that encompasses both a COVID and non COVID approach. With this in mind, the HSE is currently examining the additional workforce capacity requirements in the context of COVID-19 and non-COVID. The funding required for these posts will be considered in the context of the Budget and Estimates process for 2021. I trust that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.

Finally, workforce levels are published monthly and are available at: <https://hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/>

I trust that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.

Yours sincerely,



Des Williams

General Manager