



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'

Baile Átha Cliath 8

Office of the National Director of Human Resources

Health Service Executive

Dr. Steevens' Hospital

Dublin 8

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18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

David Cullinane, T.D.

**PQ 21879/20:** To ask the Minister for Health the estimated number of whole-time equivalent staff by occupation that would need to be hired to fully and safely staff the health service and to phase out reliance on agency staff and directly employ all health service workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020, there were 143,672 personnel (equating to 124,490 WTE) directly employed in the provision of Health and Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 organisations. This represents a WTE increase of 4,673 (+3.9%) over the period 31 December 2019 to 31 July 2020.

As the government's responds to the COVID challenge in terms of changes in roadmap and testing requirements, so too will the HSE's response in terms of workforce and its deployment. The workforce requirement is under on-going review in response to government decisions and subsequent HSE operational and strategic service delivery decisions. The HSE is conscious that the new healthcare landscape will require a service response that encompasses both a COVID and non-COVID approach.

However, the Deputy should note that all health systems have a level of reliance on agency staffing in order to deliver safe and effective services over 365 days, 24 hours a day, when dealing with gaps in recruitment, critical staff shortages, short term crises etc.

Finally, workforce levels are updated monthly and are available at:

<https://hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/>

Yours sincerely,

*Maire O'Sullivan*

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

