



Oifig an Stiúirthóra 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

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18th September 2020

Sorca Clarke, T.D.

PQ 23210/10: To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff in the HSE employed through employment agencies; the cost of same; and if the number has changed since the outbreak of Covid-19 - Sorca Clarke.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for direct reply.

As the government's response changes to the COVID challenge, 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 ongoing 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.

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.

HSE agency staffing resources are collated on the basis of expenditure. Overall agency WTE figures are not centrally recorded and therefore are not available. Details for agency expenditure for 2019 together with year-to-date 31st July 2020, as provided by HSE Finance, are as set out in the following table:

Please see below table which identifies the Agency Spend in 2019 and the Agency spend in 2020 Jan-July 2020.

Grade Category	Full Year 2019	YTD 2020 (Jan - Jul)
Agency Expenditure	€423.3 M	€248.8 M
Administrative	€32.0 M	€23.5 M
Medical & Dental	€102.8 M	€61.0 M
Nursing & Midwifery	€119.4 M	€63.5 M
Paramed	€29.6 M	€20.0 M
General Support/ Patient & Client Care	€139.6 M	€80.8 M

Note¹: Source: HSE Consolidated Financial Intelligence System (CFI)

Note²: Comprises HSE Statutory & Voluntary services

Note³: 2020 figures are draft, unaudited and subject to change

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

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

Yours sincerely,

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

Marie O Sullivan
National HR