



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
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Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil
Ospidéal Dr Steevens|Lána Steevens|Baile Átha Cliath 8|D08 W2A8

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Ged Nash

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

19/02/2021

PQ 6124/21 (187) To ask the Minister for Health the number of public health doctors employed by the HSE since 2016; the amount of funding that is provided specifically to the area and discipline of public health each year since 2016; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nash,

The number of public health doctors, defined as those employed at specialist or director of Public Health Medicine, employed by the HSE since 2016 is shown below:

Grade Group	WTE Oct 2016	WTE Oct 2017	WTE Oct 2018	WTE Oct 2019	WTE Oct 2020
Total	63	60	59	66	71
Director of PHM	7	10	11	14	17
Specialist of PHM	56	50	48	52	54

These doctors may be employed within the Departments of Public Health, the National Immunisation Office, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, the National Screening Service, the National Cancer Control Programme, the Health Intelligence Unit, or the Quality Improvement and Assurance Division.

The annual budget allocation to the Departments of Public Health since 2016 is shown below:

Budget	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	16,985,161	18,000,070	18,302,048	18,594,622	20,223,747	20,156,708
Pay	15,213,755	16,559,122	16,705,900	17,080,840	18,464,388	18,697,440

The pandemic has created a highly competitive recruitment environment in what has historically been a very limited pool of specialised medical professionals. There is ongoing advertising and a candidate engagement strategy in place to aid candidate attraction, including targeted promotion of Specialist posts in the British Medical Journal. Until such time as the permanent positions are filled through the required competitive processes, temporary resourcing has been approved and undertaken locally through the use of internal HSE redeployment and rehiring retired Specialists in Public Health Medicine. The permanent staff will provide a more sustainable and long term resourcing.

Through the Public Health Pandemic Plan, the Departments of Public Health have received significant investment of €10.5m in 2021 to recruit circa 170 WTE permanent staff across all grades.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO