



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Sean Sherlock

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

06/04/2021

PQ 15585-21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff at each regional public health department in tabular form; and his plans to increase staff numbers. -Sean Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

Please see the number of whole time equivalents (WTE) in each of the HSE's Departments of Public Health, as of 12th March 2021.

Department of Public Health	Total Staffing (WTE) as at 12.03.2021
East	94.8
South East	43.1
North East	55.1
Midlands	39.3
Midwest	47.4
North West	29.1
West	55.2
South	57.8
Total	421.8

The pandemic has created a highly competitive recruitment environment in a historically very limited pool of specialised medical professionals. There is ongoing advertising and a candidate engagement strategy in place to aid candidate attraction, including recent 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 deployed via internal HSE redeployment and rehiring retired Specialists in Public Health Medicine.

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 approximately 170 WTE permanent staff across all grades which is underway.

I hope this is of assistance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James McArthur". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pp

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO