

9th November 2021

Deputy Róisín Shortall T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 52297/21 – Staffing levels, MMUH

“To ask the Minister for Health the current position regarding staffing levels on hospital wards the Mater Hospital, Dublin 7; if there are sufficient staffing numbers in place to ensure that the required number of nurses are available to cover each ward for each shift; if not, the steps he is taking to address this; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Shortall,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on staffing levels on hospital wards in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital have been involved in extensive national and overseas recruitment campaigns since early this year in order to fill as many of their nursing vacancies as possible.

All their nurse graduate classes have been offered permanent employment in the hospital, the final group of which are currently undertaking hospital induction.

The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital is also actively recruiting for their Safe Staffing Framework posts over half of which have now been filled. Start dates for new recruits currently stretch to January 2022.

Despite reaching out to all of the nursing agencies, there has been limited response as many agency staff are currently supporting the mass vaccination centres. However, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital remain challenged on a daily basis due to the effect of Covid-19 on their staff.



Be assured that all efforts will continue to try and maintain staffing levels to ensure the safest possible care to patients during these challenging times

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery