



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte

Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'

Baile Átha Cliath 8

Office of the National Director of Human Resources

Health Service Executive

Dr. Steevens' Hospital

Dublin 8

Tel: 01 6352319 Email: nationalhr@hse.ie

Michael McNamara T.D.

14th December 2021

PQ 58262/21 To ask the Minister for Health the number and proportion of nursing graduates in 2020 and 2021, respectively, who are currently working in the health care system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael McNamara

Dear Deputy

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Questions which was sent to the HSE for response.

To advise that this response relates to nursing staff in the HSE and S38 agencies only.

Our nursing and midwifery graduates are a key resource to our public health service. In both early 2020 and again in early 2021, all nursing and midwifery graduates have been offered permanent contracts in our health service, in advance of their graduation and subsequent registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. This includes all graduates across general, mental health, intellectual disability, midwifery and children's. This approach is important not only to the necessary supply into our health service from our domestic labour market, but equally for our graduates, as it signals ahead of their graduation the roles and career available to them in our health service. Our data systems report on the number of nurses across our health service at grade level, and these graduating nurses move from their 4th year internship nursing and midwifery grade onto the staff nurse/ staff midwife grade. While this grade also includes other nurses and midwives recruited into the staff nurse and midwife grade, the data for 2020 and 2021 (year to date) shows significant growth in this grade, indicating a positive trend in the retention of our domestically trained nurses and midwives, that are the largest supply of this workforce.

I have included the below table that sets out the growth in the overall nursing and midwifery workforce for the period of 2020 and year to date 2021, that includes the staff nurse and midwife grade. The Deputy will be interested to note that there is significant growth in the overall nursing and midwifery workforce in the period since December 2019, with an additional +2,923 WTE/ +7.7%. The data shows an increase in the staff nurse and midwife grade over this period since December 2019 of +1,484 WTE, with the year to date figures for 2021, showing an increase of +414 WTE. In addition the deputy will be interested to note, the largest increase in the nursing and midwifery resource, and in particular the staff nurse/ midwife grade, usually occurs in the last quarter of the year, owing to the retention of the nursing and midwifery graduates and that the data provided for 2021 year to date includes data only to October (i.e. the latest published Health Service Personnel Census).


Staff Category /Group	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Dec 2020	WTE Oct 2021	WTE change since Dec 2020	% change since Dec 2020	WTE change since Dec 2019	% change since Dec 2019
Total Health Service	119,817	126,174	131,126	+4,952	+3.9%	+11,309	+9.4%
Nursing & Midwifery	38,205	39,917	41,128	+1,211	+3.0%	+2,923	+7.7%
Nurse/ Midwife Manager	7,984	8,344	8,735	+391	+4.7%	+751	+9.4%
Nurse/ Midwife Specialist & AN/MP	1,996	2,299	2,455	+157	+6.8%	+459	+23.0%
Staff Nurse/ Staff Midwife	25,693	26,763	27,177	+414	+1.6%	+1,484	+5.8%
Public Health Nurse	1,537	1,557	1,543	-14	-0.9%	+6	+0.4%
Nursing/ Midwifery Student	644	592	874	+282	+47.7%	+230	+35.7%
Nursing/ Midwifery other	350	362	343	-19	-5.2%	-7	-1.9%

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

Note ¹: Health Sector staffing figures relate to direct employment levels as returned through the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC) for the public health sector (HSE & Section agencies)

Note²: Figures relating to service levels are expressed as whole-time equivalents (WTE) in order to take account of part-time working.

Yours sincerely,



Marie O'Sullivan
National HR