



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
Ionad Gnó Shoird
Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord.
Co. Átha Cliath, K67D8H0
Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence
Health Service Executive
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road
Swords,
Co. Dublin, K67D8H0

19 October 2021

Deputy Peter Fitzpatrick
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ: 47691/21 To ask the Minister for Health the total number of nurses, management and administrative staff employed by the HSE on 31 December 2019; and the corresponding number for each category on 30 June 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Peter Fitzpatrick,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to staffing numbers part of which was forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for direct reply.

The Deputy will be interested to note that, employment levels at the end of June 2021, show there were 130,164 WTE (equating to 148,901 personnel) directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 hospitals & agencies and of which 41,274 WTE (32%) were Nurses & Midwives with 20,906 WTE (16%) being Clerical, Administrative & Management staff.

Nurses and Midwives along with other clinical staff require other front-line staff to support them in the delivery of health care service to patients. For example, clerical support enables medical consultants operate more efficiently by scheduling care, diagnostics, appointments etc. Similarly, ward clerks allow nurses on wards to engage in direct patient care to a greater extent freeing up valuable nursing resources from administrative duties performed more efficiently by clerical personnel. Likewise, no hospital or community service can operate without a manager to look after budgets, staff and buildings or can exist without recruitment or payroll. It is important to point out that many of our clerical administrative and management staff have also been engaged in procurement, both staffing and managing vaccine centres together with contact tracing over the period of the covid crisis.

It is also noteworthy to mention that there is a global shortage of health professionals, including nurses & midwives, and the availability of this workforce, both domestically and internationally, is more challenging to recruit.

Staffing details for December 2019 and June 2021, as requested by the Deputy, by staff category are as set out in the following table:

Staff Category /Group	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Jun 2021	WTE change since Dec 2019	No. Dec 2019	No. Jun 2021	No. change since Dec 2019
Total Health Service	119,817	130,164	+10,347	137,770	148,901	+11,131
Medical & Dental	10,857	11,791	+933	11,607	12,612	+1,005
Consultants	3,250	3,495	+245	3,564	3,824	+260
Registrars	3,679	3,952	+272	3,771	4,065	+294
SHO/ Interns	3,116	3,528	+412	3,165	3,586	+421
Medical/ Dental, other	812	816	+5	1,107	1,137	+30
Nursing & Midwifery	38,205	41,274	+3,069	43,861	47,549	+3,688
Nurse/ Midwife Manager	7,984	8,588	+603	8,760	9,410	+650
Nurse/ Midwife Specialist & AN/MP	1,996	2,380	+383	2,257	2,661	+404
Staff Nurse/ Staff Midwife	25,693	27,377	+1,684	29,816	31,414	+1,598
Public Health Nurse	1,537	1,506	-31	1,845	1,810	-35
Nursing/ Midwifery Student	644	1,077	+433	796	1,859	+1,063
Nursing/ Midwifery other	350	347	-3	387	395	+8
Health & Social Care Professionals	16,774	18,530	+1,756	19,219	21,341	+2,122
Therapy Professions	5,234	5,797	+562	6,068	6,674	+606
Health Science/ Diagnostics	4,500	4,814	+314	5,024	5,361	+337
Social Care	2,710	2,971	+261	3,214	3,482	+268
Social Workers	1,165	1,272	+107	1,309	1,430	+121
Psychologists	1,004	1,085	+80	1,144	1,222	+78
Pharmacy	1,038	1,228	+191	1,170	1,373	+203
H&SC, Other	1,123	1,363	+240	1,290	1,799	+509
Management & Administrative	18,846	20,906	+2,060	21,082	23,155	+2,073
Management (VIII & above)	1,842	2,060	+219	1,893	2,114	+221
Administrative/ Supervisory (V to VII)	5,199	6,218	+1,019	5,595	6,633	+1,038
Clerical (III & IV)	11,805	12,628	+823	13,594	14,408	+814
General Support	9,416	10,045	+628	10,914	11,470	+556
Support	8,234	8,834	+600	9,696	10,223	+527
Maintenance/ Technical	1,182	1,211	+29	1,218	1,247	+29
Patient & Client Care	25,719	27,618	+1,900	31,087	32,774	+1,687
Health Care Assistants	17,396	19,160	+1,765	19,992	21,887	+1,895
Home Help	3,569	3,416	-153	5,712	5,204	-508
Ambulance Staff	1,828	1,931	+103	1,874	1,980	+106
Care, other	2,926	3,111	+185	3,509	3,703	+194

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)

Note 2: Figures relating to service levels are expressed as whole-time equivalents (WTE) in order to take account of part-time working.

The HSE conducts a monthly census of public health services employment across all services covering the HSE and Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals & Agencies. The Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC) is the official employment count for the public health sector and is routinely published at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/>.

I trust that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Des Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Des Williams

General Manager