



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
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Health Service Executive
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18 October 2021

Deputy Catherine Connolly

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 49096/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent cardiac physiologists employed in Ireland; the number of whole-time equivalent cardiac physiologist roles currently vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to staffing numbers 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, at 30th August 2021, there were 130,533 whole-time equivalent (WTE), equating to 149,736 personnel, directly employed in the provision of Health and Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 hospitals and agencies and of which 259 WTE (281 personnel) were cardiac physiologists. Details, by grade for December 2019 and 2020, together with the latest available figures (August 2021) are as follows:

Cardiac Physiologists	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Dec 2020	WTE Aug 2021	WTE change since Dec 19	% change since Dec 19	Headcount Aug 2021
Total Cardiac Physiologists	227.2	243.4	259.3	+32.1	+14.1%	281
Cardiac Physiologist	89.8	90.9	92.3	+2.5	+2.8%	98
Cardiac Physiologist, Chief I	19.9	23.3	27.2	+7.3	+36.4%	29
Cardiac Physiologist, Chief II	13.3	14.3	17.5	+4.1	+31.1%	19
Cardiac Physiologist, Senior	104.2	114.9	122.4	+18.2	+17.5%	135

The Deputy will be interested to note that the number of cardiac physiologists has increased by 14% (+32.1 WTE) over the period covered by this response. Details for Children's Health Ireland and the Hospital Groups are as follows:

Cardiac Physiologists by Hospital Group	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Dec 2020	WTE Aug 2021	WTE change since Dec 19	% change since Dec 19	Headcount Aug 2021
Total Cardiac Physiologists	227.2	243.4	259.3	+32.1	+14.1%	281
Children's Health Ireland	16.1	14.4	15.7	-0.4	-2.5%	17
Dublin Midlands Hospitals	40.3	45.6	42.7	+2.3	+5.8%	45
Ireland East Hospitals	50.6	53.1	64.4	+13.8	+27.2%	70
RCSI Hospitals	32.6	35.1	31.5	-1.1	-3.3%	34
Saolta University Hospital Care	36.5	39.0	42.0	+5.6	+15.3%	46
South/South West Hospitals	35.3	39.7	45.6	+10.3	+29.0%	50
University of Limerick Hospitals	15.8	16.6	17.5	+1.7	+10.8%	19

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

Staff are recruited by local services, through national recruitment initiatives and through external agencies by the HSE and Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals and agencies. The HSE also has on-going international recruitment campaigns which take place in a competitive environment against a global shortages of health professionals.

The HSE does not maintain a vacancy rate and our recruitment planning process is informed by our staff group turnover data. Turnover data is calculated based on the numbers of leavers across our services, with resignations, retirements end of contracts and other reasons including moves to other health sector employers captured as a leaver from our service. The decision to resign or retire, is often determined by personal decisions.

However in our planning process, we utilise the staff group turnover rate, which is in the order of 6-7% overall, to plan for the replacement of these staff across our services, incorporated into our overall planning for recruitment of not only replacement posts, but equally our new service development posts. The health services recruitment processes are exceeding the turnover requirements to deliver additional workforce. At service level both turnover and age data is useful to assist in succession planning for the replacement posts arising from retirements, which is particularly important in the context of challenging to recruit posts, where there are shortages.

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,



Des Williams

General Manager