



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Catherine Connolly

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

17/09/2021

PQ 43642-21 – Deputy Catherine Connolly: To ask the Minister for Health the number of **whole-time equivalent vacancies across public health in Ireland**; the breakdown of the job titles of these vacant roles; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

Thank you for your representation.

The number of whole-time equivalent vacancies across public health, including the Departments of Public Health, the National Immunisation Office, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre and the Office of the National Clinical Director Health Protection are detailed below. Replacement posts refer to core posts vacated through retirement, resignation, or promotion and new development vacancies refer to new posts approved under the Public Health Pandemic Plan that are currently in active recruitment.

Grade Category	Approved Vacancies Replacement posts (WTE)	Approved Vacancies New Development posts (WTE)	Total Approved vacancies
Management Admin	17.6	32.8	50.4
Surveillance / Epidemiology	1	32.5	33.5
Nursing	3	4	7
Senior Medical Officers	2	5	7
Specialist in Public Health Medicine	5	2	7
Consultant Microbiologist	2		2
Total	30.6	76.3	106.9

€12m was committed in 2021 for recruitment of 255 permanent multidisciplinary resources aligned to the Public Health Pandemic Plan. A dedicated Public Health Recruitment team was mobilised to progress campaigns to fill all new vacancies. 76.3 WTE of these are currently in active recruitment. In Q1/2 2021 Recruitment team capacity was prioritised towards high volume campaigns and on boarding clinical capacity. During Q3 2021, recruitment team capacity was directed towards running bespoke campaigns for specialised national roles and outsourcing second round campaigns, this means there is a lead time to new resources coming on stream. Recruitment has been ongoing despite

a challenging and competitive recruitment market. Campaigns continue to progress at pace and review is underway to optimise resourcing opportunities to year end.

In addition to the significant investment in enhanced multidisciplinary teams for Public Health, the DoH, IMO and HSE have committed to introducing a fundamentally reformed Public Health Service delivery model and establishing Consultant in Public Health Medicine posts for the first time in Ireland. In line with this agreement 34 WTE Consultant in Public Health Medicine posts are approved for recruitment by June 2022. Campaigns for these consultant posts have commenced and will continue to be launched on a phased basis to year end.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO