



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Clínicíúil  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett**

Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

21/09/2021

**PQ 43924-21 - Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett - To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff in public health across the country at each of the grades broken down by public health area; the plans to increase these number; the timescale for these increases; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

Thank you for your representation.

Available data on the staffing composition by grade across the Departments of Public Health is as follows:

WTEs in DPH by Discipline (as of w/e March 19th, 2021). Since this date, recruitment of pandemic plan posts has progressed considerably as detailed below.

Discipline	Existing WTE Permanent Posts in June 2020	Total new posts in pandemic plan	Current WTE permanent posts	Temporary WTE posts in place
Specialist in Public Health Medicine	38.05	1	39.88	8.6
Nursing	11.56	58	9.97	56.6
Senior Medical Officers	33.6	4.5	31.34	12.4
Surveillance	26.56	40	38.17	57.6
Administration	39.17	67.5	55.56	81.04
Other Medical	-	-	-	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>148.94</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>174.92</b>	<b>223.14</b>

In Q3 2020, the CCO commissioned a special purpose working group to develop a pandemic workforce plan, which was approved and funded by the Department of Health in Q4 2020. With full implementation, this plan will deliver 171 WTE permanent resources to Departments of Public Health across medical, nursing, surveillance / epidemiology, operations management and administrative support, as well as temporary surge capacity.

By the end of 2020, there were 418 WTEs employed across all Public Health Departments, representing an increase of 101 since 18/09/2020. The current recruitment status of the 171 WTE permanent resources approved for the Public Health Departments is outlined in the tables below.

**Permanent posts approved under the Public Health Pandemic Plan by grade and Department of Public Health**

Department of Public Health	Surveillance & Epidemiology	Management & Administrative	Medical	Nursing	Total
DPH East	4	31.5		16	51.5
DPH Midlands	1	6.5		4	11.5
DPH Midwest	1	10	1	8	20
DPH North East	3	12.3	2	7	24.3
DPH North West		5	1	3	9
DPH South	1	10		7	18
DPH South East	1	10	2	6	19
DPH West	2	10		6	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>171.3</b>
<b>* Including surveillance assistants who are aligned to management admin grades</b>					

**Progress towards recruitment of Public Health Pandemic Plan Resources**

Department	% Complete
DPH East	48%
DPH Midlands	91%
DPH North East	74%
DPH North West	89%
DPH South	67%
DPH South East	74%
DPH Midwest	65%
DPH West	83%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68%</b>

As detailed above, overall recruitment is 68% complete. 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.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the CCO