



11th February 2022

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 4528/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of Consultant Applications Advisory Committee approved consultant posts filled and vacant, respectively; and the total for year end in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The data contained in the response below is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 07 February 2022. DIME is dependent on clinical sites inputting details on their consultant workforce and therefore there may be variances and gaps in the data supplied to that held within clinical sites. As DIME is a live system it must be noted that there can be variances in the figures published dependent on the run date of the report as entries can be made with a retrospective date.

Table 1 provides the data on our medical Consultant workforce detailed per year requested.

Although the posts are vacant it should be noted that recruitment for the post may be underway and in some cases appointments may have already been made with a prospective start date.

Table 1: Medical Consultant Workforce				
	2022	2020	2019	2018
Number of Filled Posts	3439	3177	3003	2860
Number of Consultant Posts with an unknown status	5	6	123	374
Number of Consultant Posts with a vacant status	412	288	228	
Total Number of CAAC Approved Posts	3856	3471	3354	3234
Total number of Consultant posts filled but not approved by CAAC	133	134	134	141

2022 Notes:

- 2021 saw a significant increase in the number of newly approved posts by the Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC). Over 400 new posts were approved in 2021, which has increased the number of vacancies.
- 249 of the total vacancies have been newly created within the last 12 months and recruitment is underway.
- 301 of the total vacancies have never been filled.

Definition of Status	
Filled:	The clinical site has verified that a Consultant currently occupies this post.
Vacant	Recruitment for the post may be underway but the clinical site has verified on DIME that this is currently a vacant post. An appointment may have been made to a number of these vacancies with a prospective start date. It should be noted that there is often a significant period of time between approval of a consultant post through CAAC to the commencement of the recruitment process and ultimately the recruitment of a Consultant to a post. The vacancy figure includes a combination of posts that have previously been filled but have become vacant and posts that have never been filled.
Unknown:	The clinical site has not yet assigned a Consultant to the post or marked the post as vacant.
Total number of Consultant posts filled but not approved by CAAC:	There are a number of posts filled which have not been regulated by CAAC. This can be for a number of reasons which include short-term service demands or the site has not yet submitted an application to CAAC.



Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director