



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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**Deputy Duncan Smith**  
**Dail Eireann,**  
**Dublin 2.**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

**PQ 8201/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the estimated cost of filling each vacant mental healthcare post by the end of 2022; the number of vacant posts by CHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Duncan Smith**

Dear Deputy Smith

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

As per the HSE National Recruitment Service, there are currently 624 WTE replacement posts in various stages of recruitment. Taking an average salary of €75k this would amount to a cost of €46.8m to fully fill all vacant posts. It should be noted that some of these current unfilled posts may be temporarily filled through agency staffing so there may be some corresponding cost offsets if all of these posts were filled. The availability of skilled staff is a significant issue in Mental Health services where demand outstrips supply in both the national and international contexts and the workforce (particularly younger staff) are availing of employment opportunities outside of Ireland.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

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**Jim Ryan**  
**Assistant National Director - Head of Operations**  
**National Mental Health Services**