



**Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'  
Baile Átha Cliath 8

**Office of the National Director of Human Resources**

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Bernard Durkan T.D.

1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022

**PQ 8427/22** To ask the Minister for Health the total number of nurses currently employed throughout the health services; the extent to which this compares with international norms per thousand of the population; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Bernard J. Durkan

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question above which was sent to the HSE for reply.

The current employment levels for nurses and midwives, as reported via the Health Service Personnel Census in January 2022, is 41,792 WTE, equating to 48,229 Head Count.

Overall nursing and midwifery staffing levels have grown by +3,587 WTE (9.4%) since December 2019, with 1,875 WTE of this growth in 2021.

The most significant increase at staff group level, is seen in the Staff Nurse/ Staff Midwife group, with growth of +2,079 WTE (8.1%) since December 2019, with +1,009 WTE of this growth in 2021. There is also significant growth in Nurse/Midwife Managers with +900 WTE (+11%) growth in the same period, of which +540 WTE occurred in 2021. Finally Clinical Nurse Specialist/ Advanced Nurse Practitioner posts also show significant growth with over 25% growth in this staff group, equating to a +503 WTE increase, of which +200 WTE occurred in 2021.

Staff Category /Group	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Dec 2020	WTE Dec 2021	WTE Jan 2022	WTE change since Dec 2021	WTE change since Dec 2020	WTE change since Dec 2019	% change since Dec 2019	No. Jan 2022
<b>Nursing &amp; Midwifery</b>	<b>38,205</b>	<b>39,917</b>	<b>41,576</b>	<b>41,792</b>	<b>+215</b>	<b>+1,875</b>	<b>+3,587</b>	<b>+9.4%</b>	<b>48,229</b>
Nurse/ Midwife Manager	7,984	8,344	8,852	8,884	+32	+540	+900	+11.3%	9,733
Nurse/ Midwife Specialist & AN/MP	1,996	2,299	2,481	2,499	+18	+200	+503	+25.2%	2,800
Staff Nurse/ Staff Midwife	25,693	26,763	27,850	27,772	-78	+1,009	+2,079	+8.1%	31,820
Public Health Nurse	1,537	1,557	1,523	1,519	-4	-38	-18	-1.2%	1,818
Nursing/ Midwifery Student	644	592	526	774	+248	+183	+130	+20.2%	1,667
Nursing/ Midwifery other	350	362	344	343	-1	-19	-7	-2.0%	391

In regard to the Deputy's question regarding the comparison with international norms per thousand of the population. The international comparison of country level nursing and midwifery workforces, is undertaken by the OECD, and published in 'Health at a Glance'. The workforce statistics are based on the whole health economy, for which in Ireland's case encompasses both the public and privately funded sectors.

The latest OECD report 'Health at a Glance 2021; OECD Indicators' is available on the OECD website (the link to same is provided below for the Deputy's ease) and reports Ireland's practising nurses per 1000 population in the years 2000 and 2019. The number reported for Ireland is 12.9, for the year 2019. The Deputy however will note, the changes in our nursing and midwifery workforce since 2019, as noted in the Table below.

The Table included in the report is sourced from the OECD Health Statistics 2021, for which the link to this site, has also been included for the Deputy's ease, where this provides additional notes in regard to the data, including that for Ireland.

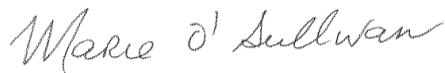
Link to the OECD Health at a Glance Report 2021; OECD Indicators

[https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/ae3016b9-en/1/3/8/6/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/ae3016b9-en&\\_csp=ca413da5d44587bc56446341952c275e&itemIGO=oecd&itemContentType=book](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/ae3016b9-en/1/3/8/6/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/ae3016b9-en&_csp=ca413da5d44587bc56446341952c275e&itemIGO=oecd&itemContentType=book)

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2021.

StatLink <https://stat.link/mjae80>

Yours sincerely,



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**Marie O'Sullivan**  
National HR