



Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Oibríochtaí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens', Baile Átha Cliath 8
D08 W2A8

Office of the Chief Operations Officer
Health Service Executive,
Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8,
D08 W2A8

www.hse.ie
@hselive
t 01 6352481
e ddg.operations@hse.ie

12th August 2022

Mr. David Cullinane, TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

By email to: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Ref: PQ 37452/22

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated number of additional patient care hours which would be provided if all vacant consultant posts were filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for response. I apologise for the delay in responding to you and any inconvenience caused.


I wish to advise that information in relation to additional patient care hours provided upon filling of vacant consultant posts is not routinely collected at a national level. Given that the number of patient hours in a consultant's work schedule is dependent on specialty, local site requirements and individual working arrangements, validated information as requested in your PQ cannot be provided.

However, data is available in relation to consultant vacancies across acute and community services, which may be of assistance to you. The data contained in the table below is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at the 3rd May 2022. As DIME is a live system it must be noted that the information below reflects a point in time, i.e. the date the report was run, so is constantly being updated. Further information on Table 1 is set out in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Total number of CAAC Approved Posts as at 03.05.2022					
Filled	Unknown Status	Vacant	Vacant Posts with a future start date	Newly created service posts under recruitment	Total
3454	6	124	23	326	3933

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,


Damien McCallion
Chief Operations Officer



Appendix 1

National Doctors Training and Planning – Information on DIME Data on Consultant Vacancies

The data contained below is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 03 May 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.

Filled	Unknown Status	Vacant	Vacant Posts with a future start date	Newly created service posts under recruitment	Total
3454	6	124	23	326	3933

Definitions

Approved: The post has been approved through the Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC) process.

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.

Newly created service posts under recruitment: Newly approved CAAC posts that are currently undergoing recruitment and are at various stages of the process. These posts have never been filled previously