



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
Saothair
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co.
Chill Dara, W91 KDC2
Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence
Health Service Executive
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co.
Kildare W91 KDC2

20 June 2022

Deputy David Cullinane

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 30133/22 To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff vacancies which currently exist in occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and psychology; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to staffing which was forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for direct reply.

The Deputy will be interested to note that given the size and complexity of the health services, staff are recruited by local services, through national recruitment initiatives and through external agencies by the HSE and Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals and agencies. In addition, the HSE also has on-going international recruitment campaigns, which take place in a competitive environment against global shortages of health professionals. Recruitment activities are undertaken to fill both vacancies and new service development posts.

However, the HSE does not centrally track all this recruitment activity, undertaken by a variety of stakeholders across the organisation. Instead, through our planning process, we utilise the staff turnover rate, which is in the order of 6.8% overall for the HSE, to plan for the replacement of these staff across our services, incorporated into our overall planning for recruitment of not only replacement posts, but equally our new service development posts.

Employment levels at the end of April 2022, show there were 134,573 WTE (equating to 151,836 personnel) directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care Services and of which:

- 1.4% (1,873 WTE, 2,114 personnel) were Occupational Therapists. This figure represents a 17.1% (274 WTE, 304 personnel) increase over December 2019.
- 1.6% (2,169 WTE, 2,506 personnel) were Physiotherapists. This figure represents a 17.2% (318 WTE, 343 personnel) increase over December 2019.
- 0.9% (1,216 WTE, 1,403 personnel) were Speech & Language Therapists. This figure represents a 10.3% (113 WTE, 126 personnel) increase over December 2019.

- 0.8% (1,109 WTE, 1,225 personnel) were Psychologists. This figure represents a 10.5% (105 WTE, 111 personnel) increase over December 2019.

Table 1: Trending & Turnover by Grade Groups: Apr 2022

Grade Group	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Apr 2022	WTE change since Dec 2019	% change since Dec 2019	No. Dec 2019	No. Apr 2022	No. change since Dec 2019	Turnover
Occupational Therapists	1,599	1,873	+274	+17.1%	1,810	2,114	+304	10.0%
Physiotherapists	1,851	2,169	+318	+17.2%	2,163	2,506	+343	9.3%
Speech & Language Therapists	1,103	1,216	+113	+10.3%	1,277	1,403	+126	10.2%
Psychologists	1,004	1,109	+105	+10.5%	1,144	1,255	+111	11.1%

Note 1: Health Sector staffing figures relate to direct employment levels as returned through the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC) for the public health sector (HSE & Section 38 Voluntary Agencies).

Note2: Figures relating to service levels are express as while-time equivalents (WTE) in order to take account of part-time working.

The HSE conducts a monthly census of public health services employment across all services covering the HSE and Section 38 Voluntary Hospitals & Agencies. The Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC) is the official employment count for the public health sector and is routinely published at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/>.

I trust that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.

Yours sincerely,



Dean Grennan

Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence