



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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1st July 2022

Deputy Duncan Smith,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 32596/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of lactation consultants that are employed by the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 32596/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There are currently 32.9 infant feeding/Lactation posts in place across maternity (24.6) and community services (8.3), which is an increase from 15.4 posts in place across the HSE in 2017. The HSE also recruited a national lead at the end of 2021 to support implementation of infant feeding standards within maternity services.

34.5 new infant feeding/lactation posts in the HSE were approved in the last two years.

10.5 posts were approved through the National Maternity Strategy to ensure every maternity unit/hospital has a least one dedicated infant feeding post in place. 8 of these posts are filled and 2.5 posts are awaiting start dates.

A further 24.5 new posts were approved by the MOH in 2021. 1.5 posts have provisional start dates of September 2022 and 6 further posts have been advertised. The remaining posts are awaiting advertisement at a regional level. While these posts were identified as priorities, many of the posts awaiting advertisement are at CHO level where recruitment is challenging due to other demands, particularly with the number of posts in progress to support Enhanced Community Care developments.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations

