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25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Deputy Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ Ref 13275/22 To ask the Minister for Health the number of current vacant posts in maternity departments in each of the years 2016 to 2021 and to date in 2022 by department and profession; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane.

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.

It is not possible to put precise figures on the current vacancies in our maternity services. This is a constantly evolving picture due to factors such as sick leave, maternity leave, promotional opportunities, and retirement.

I can however provide you with data on NWIHP's investment into new posts since 2018, which NWIHP is positioned to track annually. NWIHP is aware that in relation to posts that are being reported as unfilled, processes are underway to actively recruit and/or train up the required personnel.

**Unfilled posts per year funded:**

| Year | Posts funded | Posts unfilled | % of funded posts unfilled |
|------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 2018 | 111          | 8              | 7.2%                       |
| 2019 | 72           | 1              | 1.4%                       |
| 2020 | 53           | 15             | 28.3%                      |
| 2021 | 206          | 111            | 53.8%                      |

**Unfilled posts per staff category across 2018-2021:**

| Staff category                         | Posts |
|--|-------|
| Consultants                            | 18    |
| Management/Admin                       | 10    |
| Nurse/Midwife<br>Specialist/Management | 53    |

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Nurse/Midwives                       | 16 |
| HCA's                                | 7  |
| Health and Social Care Professionals | 16 |
| Other                                | 13 |

With regards to posts funded in 2022, NWIHP are at the final stages of negotiations with each of the 6 Hospital groups. It is anticipated that circa 150 new posts will be funded across a range of work streams including maternity, ambulatory gynaecology, endometriosis, neonatology and quality and risk initiatives. The allocation of the 2022 posts will be finalised within the coming weeks.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



**Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme**