



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
Ionad Gnó Shoirid
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5 April 2022

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 14177/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of advanced nurse practitioners working in the public system broken down by those working in primary, community and acute settings in tabular form; the number of such vacant posts; 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, employment levels at the end of February 2022, show there were 133,488 whole-time equivalents [WTE] (equating to 152,570 personnel) directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care and of which 42,204 WTE (48,487 personnel) were nurses & midwives.

The number of Advanced Nurse and Midwife Practitioners (ANMPs) in the workforce on 1 April 2022 was 722 WTE (731 personnel), comprising 545 WTE registered ANMP personnel and 177 WTE ANMP candidates. Details for advanced nurse & midwifery practitioners and candidates in training by care group as reported through Office of the Nursing & Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD) Report on the Geographical Spread of Advanced Nurse and Midwife Practitioner posts in Ireland are as set out in the following table:

AN/MP Staffing by Care Group	HC	% of total WTE	WTE	CANMP	RANMP
% of total WTE		100%		24.6%	75.4%
Total Nurse/Midwife AN/MP	731		722	178	545
Acute Services	610	83.3%	602	145	457
Mental Health	61	8.4%	61	11	50
Primary Care	30	4.0%	29	12	17
Disabilities	10	1.4%	10	6	4
Older People	16	2.2%	16	1	15
Community Services	117	16.0%	116	30	86
Occupational Health	4	0.5%	4	2	2

Source: ONMSD - ANMP Report

The Policy on Graduate, Specialist and Advanced Nursing Practice (DoH, 2019), aims to maximise the nursing and midwifery response to current and emerging health services challenges and to drive integration between services and professional groups. It provides an accelerated model of progression from graduate to advanced practice to support the development of a critical mass of nurses and midwives at advanced practice level. Creating a critical mass of Advanced Nurse and Midwife Practitioners (ANMPs) can contribute effectively and efficiently to addressing population health needs and has demonstrated improved patient experience, reduced waiting times and reduced admissions to hospitals. The HSE supports the development of the nursing and midwifery resource from graduate to specialist and advanced practice through education, guidance, advice and monitoring of numbers in the post of advanced nurse / midwife practitioner across services (NSP 2022, pg. 27). In November 2021, the Minister for Health asked that the number of ANMPs in the health service be increased from 2% to 3% of the workforce.

Finally, the HSE does not maintain a vacancy rate and our recruitment planning process is informed by our staff group turnover data. Turnover data is calculated based on the numbers of leavers across our services, with resignations, retirements end of contracts and other reasons including moves to other health sector employers captured as a leaver from our service. The decision to resign or retire, is often determined by personal decisions with the staff turnover rate for running at 6-7% overall.

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

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,



Des Williams

General Manager