



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

10 June 2022

Deputy Verona Murphy

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 27212/22 To ask the Minister for Health the current number of social work vacancies across the HSE services nationally; the breakdown of those social work vacancies across the different community healthcare divisions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 6.3% overall for Community Services and 8.1% for this specific grade group, 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 1.0% (1,331 WTE, 1,490 personnel) were Social Workers. This figure represents a 14.3% (167 WTE, 181 personnel) increase over December 2019.

Table 1: Social Workers by Service Delivery area: Apr 2022

Service Delivery Area	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
Social Workers	1,165	1,331	+167	+14.3%	1,309	1,490	+181
Children's Health Ireland	57	65	+8	+14.4%	70	77	+7
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	79	94	+15	+18.7%	85	101	+16
Ireland East Hospital Group	82	108	+26	+32.1%	89	116	+27
RCSI Hospitals Group	66	69	+3	+4.8%	71	76	+5
Saolta University Hospital Care	26	35	+9	+33.6%	29	40	+11
South/South West Hospital Group	33	40	+7	+21.9%	38	46	+8
University of Limerick Hospital Group	11	12	+1	+5.2%	12	13	+1
other Acute Services	1		-1	-100.0%	1		-1
Acute Services	355	423	+68	+19.1%	395	469	+74
CHO 1	85	100	+15	+17.9%	93	110	+17
CHO 2	84	89	+5	+5.8%	96	102	+6
CHO 3	59	63	+4	+6.6%	68	69	+1
CHO 4	115	137	+22	+19.3%	133	156	+23
CHO 5	60	62	+2	+3.3%	65	69	+4
CHO 6	57	59	+2	+3.2%	64	64	+0
CHO 7	105	118	+14	+13.0%	115	133	+18
CHO 8	88	100	+12	+14.1%	101	114	+13
CHO 9	125	147	+21	+17.1%	141	165	+24
other Community Services	29	31	+2	+8.1%	33	36	+3
Community Services	806	905	+100	+12.4%	909	1,018	+109
H&WB Corporate & National Services	4	3	-1	-26.3%	5	3	-2

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 expressed as while-time equivalents (WTE) in order to take account of part-time working.

Note 3: H&WB, Corporate & National includes the following central services Cancer Control Service, Compliance, Emergency Management, Environmental Health, HR, Finance, Human Resources, ICT, Internal Audit, Legal Services, National Screening Service, PCRS etc.

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