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Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta, Oibríochtaí Pobail  
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28<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Deputy Sean Sherlock  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 56902/22 - "To ask the Minister for Health the current vacancies in public health nursing by LHO and CHO; the number of public health nurses employed directly by the HSE; the number employed by agency and temporary secondment by each CHO and LHO; and the cost associated with the agency staff in tabular form."**

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Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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

There is no accepted definition of what a vacancy actually is. Data in relation to vacancies that are approved for replacement include New Development posts, retirements and resignations. However there can be other reasons posts are not filled (for example where there is long term sick leave, maternity leave, blocks of parental leave etc.), which may not be possible to gain budgetary approval to replace, although there may be a person assigned to such 'vacancies'/posts that are crucial to service delivery. However they are not an approved vacancy.

I can confirm the number of approved vacancies for Public Health Nurses is gathered once a year for the Student PHN Sponsorship Scheme and in April 2022 the total number of vacancies to be filled via the Sponsorship scheme were 237. The 237 includes new development posts and routine replacement posts. This is at a point in time in April 2022 and as you will understand will continue to change as staff make personal decisions to either retire or move on from the organisation.

There are 155 HEI places available for Student PHN Sponsorship each year. The filling of all available HEI places is a complex process involving offering the candidates on the panel a HEI place and a sponsoring area, that they are agreeable to accepting. There are currently 115 in training in the PHN Sponsorship scheme for 2022 – 2023.

Please see the current number of Public Health Nurses employed directly by CHO in the following table:

Sep 2022	WTE Sep 2022	No. Sep 2022
Public Health Nurse CHO 1	155.	181
Public Health Nurse CHO 2	179.	208
Public Health Nurse CHO 3	120.	146
Public Health Nurse CHO 4	205.	256
Public Health Nurse CHO 5	159.	197
Public Health Nurse CHO 6	102.	122
Public Health Nurse CHO 7	167.	205
Public Health Nurse CHO 8	213.	259
Public Health Nurse CHO 9	179.	216

All our employment data is available on the HSE Personnel Census website [here](#).

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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**Jacqueline Nix**

*Assistant National Director, HR Community Operations*