



8th December 2022

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 59846/22 - "To ask the Minister for Health the number of public health nurse positions in each CHO area; the number of vacant public health nurse positions in each CHO area and the specific geographic areas within each CHO that currently have no public health nurse in place; and if any interim measures are being put in place to ensure universal access to public health nurses in tabular form."

Dear Deputy Ó Broin,

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.

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

Oct 2022	WTE Oct 2022	No. Oct 2022
Public Health Nurse CHO 1	152.	176
Public Health Nurse CHO 2	184.	215
Public Health Nurse CHO 3	125.	150
Public Health Nurse CHO 4	208.	263
Public Health Nurse CHO 5	160.	200
Public Health Nurse CHO 6	101.	120
Public Health Nurse CHO 7	168.	201
Public Health Nurse CHO 8	219.	260
Public Health Nurse CHO 9	178.	211

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.

A Community Nursing Service National Oversight Group has been established with particular focus on the Recruitment and Retention of Public Health Nurses and Community Registered General Nurses in Community Nursing.

Cross cover arrangements are agreed at local level to ensure critical priorities are covered.

All our employment data is available on the HSE website:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/community-services.html> .

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Jacqueline Nix

Assistant National Director, HR Community Operations