

CC/ROD/MC

Email: [pqmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pqmidwestacute@hse.ie)

20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Mr Richard O'Donoghue TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 42619/22

**To ask the Minister for Health the total cost staffing across all grades including management and agency workers within the UL Hospital Group in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Donoghue,

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.

Please see below for a breakdown of the total staff cost across all grades and disciplines at UL Hospitals Group excluding agency staff between January and July 2022:

Category	Total Year to Date
General Support Total	19,471,708
Health & Social Care Professionals Total	19,586,256
Management /Administration Total	22,205,133
Medical Total	56,709,055
Nursing Total	77,517,687
Other Client & Client Care Total	12,706,311
Grand Total	208,196,149

Below is a breakdown of the total cost of agency staff across all grades and disciplines at UL Hospitals Group between January and July 2022:

Agency Cost Category	Total Year to Date
General Support	1,105,831
Health & Social Care Professionals	1,042,178
Management /Administration	2,715,663
Medical	5,515,654
Nursing	2,215,328
Other Client & Client Care	3,182,184
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15,776,838</b>

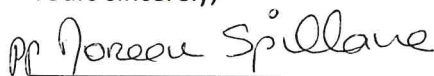
It is important to note that agency staff are used where there is a difficulty in recruiting and employing hospital staff and where there is a short-term critical service need. Agency is also used for flexibility to allow for variation in activity and as required to meet service demand needs.

Agency staff expenditure should be considered in the overall context of increasing demand for services; the impact of earlier constraints on recruitment in the public service; ongoing challenges in relation to the recruitment and retention of clinical staff; and actions necessary to support compliance with the European Working Time Directive.

UL Hospitals Group, in common with other healthcare providers in Ireland and all over the developed world, faces a significant challenge in meeting the global shortage of healthcare professionals. Medical agency staff may be engaged in view of difficulties recruiting consultants in particular posts. Agency staff of all grades are engaged to provide and support essential services, including services which require round-the-clock cover.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



**Prof Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**