



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,  
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
R: [PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service  
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Email: [PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

Deputy Colm Burke,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**PQ Number: PQ 47581/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff working in the mental health sector in the HSE and in any other voluntary hospital group or organisation by category of occupation from 2014 to July 2022; his plans to attract additional nursing staff in the mental health area; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Colm Burke**

Dear Deputy Burke,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The table below shows the WTE (Whole Time Equivalents) change and percentage change of staff working in the mental health sector in the HSE by category of occupation from 2014 to August 2022. Overall HSE Employment levels at the end of August 2022, show there were 134,994 WTE (equating to 153,728 personnel) directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 hospitals and agencies of which 10,394 WTE (7.7%) are employed in community Mental Health Services. This figure represents a +1,110 WTE (+12%) increase over the period August 2014-2022.<sup>1</sup> To note, Nursing personnel make up 48% of MHS staffing.

**Mental Health Staffing: Aug 2014-Aug 2022**

**2014-2022**

Staff Category/ Staff Group	Change since 2014	% change since 2014
<b>Total Health Service Staffing</b>	<b>+1,110</b>	<b>+12.0%</b>
Consultants	+81	+26.8%
Registrars	+160	+96.6%
SHO/ Interns	+25	+11.1%
Medical/ Dental, other	-4	-44.8%

<sup>1</sup> Of note, August 2022 data is currently available and used in this response.



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<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>+263</b>	<b>+37.3%</b>
Nurse/ Midwife Manager	+211	+20.6%
Nurse/ Midwife Specialist & AN/MP	+306	+117.3%
Staff Nurse/ Staff Midwife	-251	-7.7%
Public Health Nurse	+0	
Nursing/ Midwifery Student	+40	+33.7%
Nursing/ Midwifery other	+17	+122.1%
<b>Nursing &amp; Midwifery</b>	<b>+324</b>	<b>+6.9%</b>
Dietitians	+13	+326.8%
Occupational Therapists	+42	+14.2%
Physiotherapists	-0	-7.8%
Podiatrists & Chiropodists	-1	-54.4%
Speech & Language Therapists	+5	+9.2%
Therapy Professions	+59	+16.3%
Social Care	-21	-23.5%
Social Workers	+85	+27.9%
Psychologists	+144	+50.5%
Pharmacy	+2	+9.2%
H&SC, Other	+47	+55.3%
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>+315</b>	<b>+27.5%</b>
Management (VIII & above)	+45	+204.4%
Administrative/ Supervisory (V to VII)	+133	+99.3%
Clerical (III & IV)	+93	+15.3%
<b>Management &amp; Administrative</b>	<b>+272</b>	<b>+35.5%</b>
Maintenance/ Technical	-32	-19.5%
Support	-215	-27.6%
<b>General Support</b>	<b>-246</b>	<b>-26.2%</b>
Health Care Assistants	+181	+21.4%
Care, other	+2	+0.9%
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>+183</b>	<b>+17.3%</b>

In relation to attracting additional nursing staff to the MHS:

- All 2022 nursing and midwifery interns on clinical placements have been offered permanent contracts of employment.
- Recruitment for Staff Nurses is now managed by local recruitment services under the revised HSE Recruitment Operating Model. There is continual engagement directly with mental health nurse graduates during their clinical placements.



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- There has been a significant investment in improving capacity and infrastructure for recruitment in the HSE both centrally and locally. The HSE is supported by a number of international recruitment partners, and will be sourcing significant candidate numbers through the international market across all disciplines, including nursing. In this regard, an enhanced re-location package is on offer across all disciplines. The relocation package includes allowances payable to candidates to meet initial costs for relocating, such as accommodation and flight allowance. Additional costs such as registration fees to regulatory bodies, Visa fees, aptitude test fees are also payable on behalf of the candidate.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

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**Tony Mc Cusker**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**