



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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2nd May 2023

Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: aodhan.oriordain@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Ó Ríordáin

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 18162/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of unfilled posts in the disability services area; the proportion of those posts that are full time permanent contracts; and what proportion that are fixed term or temporary contracts.

HSE Response

The HSE is the largest employer in the State, with more than 67,000 direct employees, and a further 35,000 employed by agencies funded by the HSE.

Disability Service provision includes a wide range of services for children and adults with disabilities which includes for example; Residential Services, Respite Services, Day Services, PA and Home Support Services and Therapeutic Supports.

The majority of disability service provision in Ireland has historically and continues to be provided by voluntary agencies which provide services to people with disabilities. These agencies are funded under Section 38 and Section 39 of the Health Act 2004. The HSE works in partnership with these agencies to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability and their families, within the resources available.

Information pertaining to staffing levels in health services are generated by the HSE Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence Unit. Information is available per care group area including Disability Services.

The most recent reports available are end of February 2023. The staffing numbers (all grades and disciplines) working in Disability Services at this time is 23, 742 people representing 19,999 whole time equivalents (WTE). The whole time equivalent report at the end of December 2022 was 19,903 WTE.



Further information can be obtained at the following web link:

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

It is important to note that the reports provided refer to staff numbers in the HSE and in S38 organisations and do not include staff employed in S39 organisations.

While the HSE Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence Unit also provides absence reports, information is not collated centrally regarding the number of posts in Disability services that are unfilled.

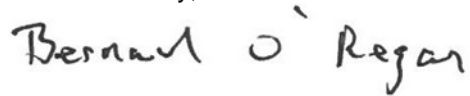
Additionally, it is not possible to apportion out how many of unfilled posts are full time permanent contracts; and what proportion that are fixed term or temporary contracts.

Currently the HSE and its funded agencies are operating in a very competitive global market for healthcare talent as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals across the globe. The HSE and the agencies continue to explore a range of options to enhance the recruitment and retention of staff

Workforce Planning

As part of the HSE's workforce planning process, the ESRI has been commissioned to undertake a Workforce Demands Project to 2035 for Community Services. The work of the ESRI will inform the work of the HSE in assigning resources to areas of most need.

Yours sincerely,



**Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**

