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09<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Deputy Donnelly  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ Ref 18948/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE midwives working in each of the maternity hospitals within Dublin in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; if this number will be further increased; and if so, when.**

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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.

Below are the requested figures for the WTE Midwives working in each of the maternity hospitals within Dublin.

It should be noted that figures will include staffing personnel such as Directors of Midwifery, Clinical Midwife Managers, Midwife Specialists, Senior Midwives, Staff Midwives and Midwifery Students where applicable. However it will not include other staff who may be directly involved in the provision of maternity care in the 19 services such as theatre nurses, general nurses, health care assistants and ultrasonographers from a radiography professional background, nor will the figures include vacant midwifery posts that are being actively recruited into – either from a replacement perspective or newly funded posts.

It is also important to note that these figures represent a snapshot in time, and like any other part of the system, maternity services will have a natural turnover of staff arising from retirements and resignations.

<u>Hospitals</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Mar '23</u>
Coombe Women & Infants University	259	268	239	245
National Maternity	302	291	275	289
Rotunda	270	262	306	314

Following the 2020 HIQA report 'Overview report of HIQA's monitoring programme against the National Standards for Safer Better Maternity Services, with a focus on obstetric emergencies' eight key recommendations were listed. Recommendation 3 cited 'The HSE should conduct a review of current workforce arrangements in each maternity unit or hospital nationally to determine the required levels of staff and skill-mix needed in the medical specialties of obstetrics, anaesthesiology, paediatrics and neonatology and the professions of midwifery and nursing.

On foot of this recommendation, NWIHP working with the HSE HR Directorate, has commenced an MDT workforce planning exercise, which will encompass midwifery as a key component, in order to develop and integrated workforce plan for maternity services. The Integrated Workforce Plan for maternity services will seek to identify the workforce requirement for the next five years.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



**Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme**