



13 February 2023

Deputy David Cullinane
 Dáil Éireann
 Kildare Street
 Dublin 2

PQ Number: 4913/23

Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultant posts by location and by specialty; the number which are consultant appointment advisory committee-approved; the number which are not; the number which are vacant; the number which are filled on a permanent basis; the number which are filled on a temporary, agency, or locum basis; the number which have previously been filled but which are now vacant or filled on a non-permanent basis; and the number which are new posts, in tabular form.” - David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The data in the tables below is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 07 February 2023. DIME is dependent on clinical sites inputting details on their consultant workforce and therefore there may be variances and gaps in the data supplied to that held within clinical sites. As DIME is a live system it must be noted that there can be variances in the figures published dependent on the run date of the report as entries can be made with a retrospective date.

Table 1: Number of CAAC Approved and Unapproved Consultant Posts occupied by Medical Discipline and Hospital Group/CHO as at 07.02.2023

| Medical Discipline | Hospital group/CHO | Approved Posts | | Un-Approved Posts | Total |
|--------------------|--|----------------|--------|-------------------|-------|
| | | Tenure Unknown | Filled | Filled | |
| Anaesthesiology | BreastCheck | | 3 | | 3 |
| | Children's Health Ireland | | 31 | 1 | 32 |
| | Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group | | 78 | 3 | 81 |
| | Ireland East Hospitals Group | 1 | 80 | | 81 |
| | RCSI Hospitals Group | 1 | 76 | | 77 |
| | Saolta Hospitals Group | | 63 | 2 | 65 |
| | South / South West Hospitals Group | | 70 | 2 | 72 |
| | University of Limerick Hospitals Group | | 23 | 1 | 24 |
| Emergency Medicine | Children's Health Ireland | | 19 | | 19 |
| | Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group | | 21 | 3 | 24 |
| | Ireland East Hospitals Group | | 17 | 2 | 19 |
| | Other | | 1 | | 1 |
| | RCSI Hospitals Group | 3 | 21 | | 24 |
| | Saolta Hospitals Group | | 16 | 3 | 19 |
| | South / South West Hospitals Group | | 27 | | 27 |
| | University of Limerick Hospitals Group | | 12 | | 12 |

| Medical Discipline | Hospital group/CHO | Approved Posts | | Un- Approved Posts | Total |
|--|--|-------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------|
| | | Tenure Unknown | Filled | Filled | |
| Intensive Care Medicine | Children's Health Ireland | | 14 | | 14 |
| | Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group | | 7 | | 7 |
| | Ireland East Hospitals Group | 1 | 14 | | 15 |
| | RCSI Hospitals Group | | 1 | | 1 |
| | Saolta Hospitals Group | | 2 | | 2 |
| Medicine | Children's Health Ireland | | 13 | | 13 |
| | CHO 1 | | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| | CHO 3 | | 3 | | 3 |
| | CHO 7 | | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| | CHO 9 | | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| | Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group | 1 | 181 | 7 | 189 |
| | Ireland East Hospitals Group | | 206 | 9 | 215 |
| | Other | | 2 | | 2 |
| | RCSI Hospitals Group | 2 | 144 | 7 | 153 |
| | Saolta Hospitals Group | 1 | 149 | 12 | 162 |
| | South / South West Hospitals Group | 1 | 170 | 5 | 176 |
| | University of Limerick Hospitals Group | 1 | 56 | 4 | 61 |
| Obstetrics & Gynaecology | Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group | | 33 | 1 | 34 |
| | Ireland East Hospitals Group | | 38 | 1 | 39 |
| | RCSI Hospitals Group | 1 | 38 | 1 | 40 |
| | Saolta Hospitals Group | | 29 | 1 | 30 |
| | South / South West Hospitals Group | | 36 | 1 | 37 |
| | University of Limerick Hospitals Group | | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Paediatrics | Children's Health Ireland | | 94 | 4 | 98 |
| | CHO 2 | | 1 | | 1 |
| | CHO 9 | | 2 | | 2 |
| | Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group | | 12 | | 12 |
| | Ireland East Hospitals Group | | 22 | 3 | 25 |
| | RCSI Hospitals Group | | 17 | 1 | 18 |
| | Saolta Hospitals Group | | 31 | 1 | 32 |
| | South / South West Hospitals Group | | 43 | | 43 |
| Pathology | University of Limerick Hospitals Group | | 16 | 1 | 17 |
| | BreastCheck | | 5 | | 5 |
| | Children's Health Ireland | | 17 | | 17 |
| | CHO 6 | | 1 | | 1 |
| | CHO 7 | | 1 | | 1 |
| | Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group | | 62 | | 62 |
| | Ireland East Hospitals Group | | 42 | 1 | 43 |
| | Other | | 7 | | 7 |
| | RCSI Hospitals Group | | 56 | 1 | 57 |
| | Saolta Hospitals Group | | 53 | 1 | 54 |
| South / South West Hospitals Group | 1 | 48 | | 49 | |
| University of Limerick Hospitals Group | | 14 | | 14 | |

| Medical Discipline | Hospital group/CHO | Approved Posts | | Un- Approved Posts | Total |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | | Tenure Unknown | Filled | Filled | |
| Psychiatry | Children's Health Ireland | | 5 | | 5 |
| | CHO 1 | | 40 | | 40 |
| | CHO 2 | | 36 | | 36 |
| | CHO 3 | | 24 | | 24 |
| | CHO 4 | | 58 | 4 | 62 |
| | CHO 5 | | 41 | | 41 |
| | CHO 6 | | 44 | 1 | 45 |
| | CHO 7 | | 56 | 2 | 58 |
| | CHO 8 | | 48 | | 48 |
| | CHO 9 | | 65 | 5 | 70 |
| | Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group | | 6 | | 6 |
| | Ireland East Hospitals Group | | 7 | | 7 |
| | Mental Health Services | | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| | Other | | 6 | | 6 |
| | RCSI Hospitals Group | | 7 | | 7 |
| | Saolta Hospitals Group | | 1 | | 1 |
| | South / South West Hospitals Group | | 1 | | 1 |
| | University of Limerick Hospitals Group | | 1 | | 1 |
| | BreastCheck | | 19 | | 19 |
| Radiology | Children's Health Ireland | 1 | 17 | | 18 |
| | Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group | | 64 | 5 | 69 |
| | Ireland East Hospitals Group | 1 | 58 | | 59 |
| | RCSI Hospitals Group | 2 | 43 | | 45 |
| | Saolta Hospitals Group | | 46 | | 46 |
| | South / South West Hospitals Group | 1 | 58 | 2 | 61 |
| | University of Limerick Hospitals Group | | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| | BreastCheck | | 11 | | 11 |
| Surgery | Children's Health Ireland | | 35 | 3 | 38 |
| | CHO 6 | | 1 | | 1 |
| | Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group | | 90 | 2 | 92 |
| | Ireland East Hospitals Group | 1 | 116 | 8 | 125 |
| | RCSI Hospitals Group | 1 | 92 | 2 | 95 |
| | Saolta Hospitals Group | 2 | 83 | 7 | 92 |
| | South / South West Hospitals Group | 1 | 104 | 4 | 109 |
| | University of Limerick Hospitals Group | 1 | 40 | | 41 |
| Total | | 25 | 3624 | 130 | 3779 |

Table 2: Number of CAAC Approved Consultant Posts occupied by Tenure as at 07.02.2023

| Tenure | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Permanent | 3232 |
| Temporary/Locum | 326 |
| Agency | 66 |
| Tenure Status 'Unknown' | 25 |
| Total | 3649 |

Table 3: Number of vacant (Consultant Applications Advisory Committee) CAAC Approved Consultant Posts at 07.02.2023*

| | |
|--|------------|
| Total number of vacant consultant posts | 166 |
|--|------------|

* Consultant Posts which had been occupied previously and are now vacant. There are no vacant unapproved posts.

Table 4: Number of new additional service posts approved by Consultant Applications Advisory Committee since 2021*

| | |
|---|------------|
| Consultant posts – newly created posts and currently under recruitment | 332 |
|---|------------|

* Refers to new additional consultant service posts approved by CAAC since 2021 which are awaiting or undergoing recruitment. Recruitment for the new post has most likely been initiated. It should be noted that there is often a significant period of time between recommendation of approval of a consultant post through CAAC to the commencement of the recruitment process and ultimately the recruitment of a Consultant to a post.

| Definition of Status |
|--|
| Approved: The post has been approved through the Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC) process. |
| Vacant: A post which had been occupied previously, regardless of tenure, but is now vacant as verified by the clinical site on DIME. |
| Tenure Status unknown: The clinical site has identified a successful candidate through a standard competitive interview process and assigned a start date but is yet to assign the Consultant tenure details to the post. |
| Permanent: those consultants that hold a permanent or contract of indefinite duration contract. |
| Agency/Temp/Locum: includes agency, locum, fixed term contract holders and specified purposes contract holders. |
| Unapproved posts: A post which has not been submitted to CAAC for approval is deemed an “unapproved post”. There are a number of consultant posts which have not been regulated by CAAC. This can be for a variety of reasons including short term service demands. There are no vacant unapproved posts. |

Yours sincerely,



Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director