



**Stiúrtórsa Náisiúnta
Acmhainní Daonna**
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse,
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8.

**National Director
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Claire Kerrane, T.D.

28th February , 2023

PQ 8734/23: To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the level of staffing of clinical pharmacists in the HSE; the optimum target staffing in this area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Claire Kerrane
Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response.

Employment levels at the end of January 2023, show there were 138,334 WTE (equating to 157,654 personnel) directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care Services and of which 806 WTE (895 personnel) were pharmacists and a further 524 WTE (592) were Pharmacy Technicians

The Deputy will be interested to note that for Pharmacists this represents an increase of 161 WTE (+24.9%) over the December 2019 levels.

Pharmacists	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Dec 2022	WTE Jan 2023	WTE change since Dec 2022	WTE change since Dec 2019	% change since Dec 2019	No. Dec 2019	No. Dec 2022	No. Jan 2023	No. change since Dec 2022	No. change since Dec 2019	% No. change since Dec 2019
Pharmacists	645	802	806	+3	+161	+24.9%	716	896	895	-1	+179	+25.0%
Pharmacist	134	146	147	+1	+13	+10.0%	148	159	161	+2	+13	+8.8%
Pharmacist, Chief I	30	43	43	+0	+14	+45.3%	31	44	44		+13	+41.9%
Pharmacist, Chief II	114	147	150	+3	+36	+31.5%	123	157	159	+2	+36	+29.3%
Pharmacist, Senior	368	466	466	-1	+98	+26.6%	414	536	531	-5	+117	+28.3%

Pharmacy Grades	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Dec 2022	WTE Jan 2023	WTE change since Dec 2022	WTE change since Dec 2019	% change since Dec 2019	No. Dec 2019	No. Dec 2022	No. Jan 2023	No. change since Dec 2022	No. change since Dec 2019	% No. change since Dec 2019
Pharmacy	1,038	1,323	1,330	+7	+292	+28.1%	1,170	1,483	1,487	+4	+317	+27.1%
Pharmacist	134	146	147	+1	+13	+10.0%	148	159	161	+2	+13	+8.8%
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Pharmaceutical Technician	245	311	313	+2	+69	+28.0%	273	346	348	+2	+75	+27.5%
Pharmaceutical Technician, Senior	148	209	211	+2	+63	+42.6%	181	241	244	+3	+63	+34.8%
Pharmacy Technicians	393	520	524	+4	+131	+33.5%	454	587	592	+5	+138	+30.4%

The HSE does not collate or report on staffing levels in the context of optimal levels; however, the HSE does provide a suite of staffing information through our monthly Census Report - (see extract from Census above)

In general, a range of criteria and factors concerning staffing levels are used as part of our annual estimates and service planning process and related approach to Workforce Planning. This includes the funding made available through the Letter of Determination, Ministerial Priorities, service and service user need, and policy and strategy implementation. Related policies and strategies that include references to specific /optimal staffing levels in specific disciplines would also be of clear relevance here e.g. midwifery etc. Any such policies/papers would be responded to as appropriate within available resources, including funding allocations, and the availability of a recruitment pipeline of trained individuals within the grade types/disciplines concerned to facilitate this recruitment.

I trust this clarifies and is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Marie O'Sullivan

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR