



14th March 2023

Deputy Pádraig O'Sullivan, Dail Eireann Kildare Street Dublin 2

Re: PQ 9569/23 To ask the Minister for Health the number of lactation consultant positions in each CHO including a breakdown of LHO; the number of positions filled; the number vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan

The above PQ has been forwarded to my department for direct response to you on same.

Midwives and public health nurses support mothers and babies to establish and learn the skills of breastfeeding in the immediate and extended post-natal period. Integrating infant feeding/lactation supports into maternity and community services improves the availability of 1:1 breastfeeding support in maternity services when needed and breastfeeding support groups in community services.

There are a total of 52.1 infant feeding/lactation Whole time equivalents (wte's) across HSE services, comprised of 35 wte's in maternity services and 17.1 wte's in community services. There are a further 7 wte's in recruitment, with 1.5 of these due to commence in April.

The table on page 2 outlines the location of the community based lactation/infant feeding post holders around the country.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Kind regards,

Anne Pardy
Chair of National Breastfeeding Implementation Group
Programme Manager National Healthy Childhood Programme

Cc community.primarycare@hse.ie, and National Women and Infants Health Programme



Health Service Area	lactation wte in place	wte in recruitment	recruitment status
Area 1			
Donegal	1		
Sligo/Leitrim/ West Cavan	0.5		
Cavan/Monaghan	1		
Area 2			
Galway	1		
Mayo	1		
Roscommon	0.5		
Area 3			
ADPHN CHO 3	1		
Clare	1		
Limerick	1		
North Tipperary	0		vacant post
Area 4			
Kerry	0.5		
North Cork	0.5		
North Lee Cork City	1		
South Lee Cork city	0.5		
West Cork	0.8		
Area 5			
Carlow Kilkenny		0.5	waiting start date
South Tipperary	0.8		
Waterford		0.5	waiting start date
Wexford		0.5	waiting start date
Area 6			
Wicklow North & South (2 x	1		
Dublin South East	0.5		
Dun Laoghaire	0.5	0.5	waiting start date
Area 7			
Dublin south city		0.5	waiting start date
Dublin South West		0.5	waiting start date
Dublin West		0.5	waiting start date
Kildare/West Wicklow		1	waiting start date
Area 8			
Laois/Offaly		1	2nd recruitment campaign planned
Longford/Westmeath	1		
Louth		0.5	start date: 03.04.2023
Meath		1	start date: 24.04.2023
Area 9			
Dublin North	1		
Dublin North central	0.5		
Dublin North West	0.5		
Totals	17.1	7	