



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
Ionad Gnó Shoird
Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord.
Co. Átha Cliath, K67D8H0
Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence
Health Service Executive
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road
Swords,
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10 March 2022

Deputy Christopher O'Sullivan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 9739/23: To ask the Minister for Health if he will arrange for the provision of the movement in the staff numbers employed in the public health service, including voluntary hospitals for grades of staff in each of the years 2018 to 2022, and to date in 2023, in view of the on-going public commentary on staffing levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to staffing which was forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for direct reply.

Notably over the period encompassed by the Deputy's request (31/12/2017 to 30/01/2023) the health service has increased its overall direct staffing numbers by over 24,000 whole-time equivalents (WTE) and this trajectory must continue in order to meet the healthcare needs of our growing and aging population. There are many factors which create challenges to the overall growth of our workforce inclusive of the significant gap between supply and demand, an ageing workforce, HRA reversal, competition from abroad and also the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic over the past 3 years.

Nonetheless, the Deputy will be interested to note that, 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 by the HSE and the various Section 38 hospitals & agencies. This figure represents a 24,037 WTE increase in employment levels over the years 2018 to 2022 and to-date in 2023. This growth is the net effect of newly appointed employees on one hand, including replacements and leavers, including retirements resignations and moves within our service, on the other.

Details as requested in tabular form are as follows:

Staff Category	Total WTE	Medical & Dental	Nursing & Midwifery	Health & Social Care Professionals	Management & Administrative	General Support	Patient & Client Care
Dec 2017	114,297	10,121	36,777	15,950	17,714	9,454	24,281
Dec 2018	117,857	10,467	37,644	16,496	18,504	9,454	25,292
Dec 2019	119,817	10,857	38,205	16,774	18,846	9,416	25,719
Dec 2020	126,174	11,762	39,917	17,807	19,829	9,876	26,985
Dec 2021	132,323	12,113	41,576	18,999	21,583	10,010	28,042
Dec 2022	137,745	12,697	43,619	19,721	23,156	10,134	28,418
Jan 2023	138,334	12,631	43,947	19,826	23,426	10,189	28,314
WTE change 2018	+3,560	+346	+867	+546	+789	+1	+1,011
WTE change 2019	+1,960	+390	+561	+278	+343	-38	+427
WTE change 2020	+6,357	+904	+1,712	+1,033	+982	+459	+1,266
WTE change 2021	+6,149	+352	+1,660	+1,192	+1,754	+135	+1,057
WTE change 2022	+5,422	+584	+2,042	+723	+1,574	+123	+376
WTE change to 30 Jan 2023	+588	-67	+328	+105	+270	+55	-104

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

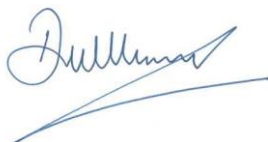
Note 1: Health Sector staffing figures relate to direct employment levels as returned through the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC) for the public health sector (HSE & Section agencies)

Note 2: Figures relating to service levels are expressed as whole-time equivalents (WTE) and calculated to 2 decimals in order to take account of part-time working

Workforce reports are available through the Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC), which is the official employment count for the public health service. The latest published information is routinely published [here](#).

I trust that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.

Yours sincerely,



Des Williams

General Manager