



20 March 2023

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ Number: 11598/23

Question: "To ask the Minister for Health the number of approved consultant positions in each public and voluntary hospital; the number of those filled on a wholetime equivalent basis; the number of those vacant as of 28 February 2023 or the latest date available; and the number of those filled on locum or non-specialist basis in tabular form – Jim O'Callaghan".

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The data below was extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 13 March 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. The combined post occupancy for the given post cannot exceed 1 wte.

Table 1: Number of filled (Consultant Applications Advisory Committee) CAAC Approved Consultant Posts both public & voluntary at 13.03.2023*	
Number of approved Consultant Posts	4,183
Number of approved Consultant Posts that are filled	3,665
Number of posts filled by Temp/ Locum	339
Number of posts filled by non-specialist general registration basis	85

*Posts occupied by Temp/Locum are filled on an agency, fixed term and specified purpose basis.

Table 2: Number of vacant (Consultant Applications Advisory Committee) CAAC Approved Consultant Posts at 13.03.2023*	
Total number of vacant consultant posts	174

* Consultant Posts which had been occupied previously and are now vacant.

Table 3 : Number of new additional service posts approved by CAAC at 13.03.2023*	
Consultant posts – newly created posts and currently under recruitment	335

* Refers to new additional consultant service posts approved by CAAC 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 approval of a consultant post through CAAC to the commencement of the recruitment process and ultimately the recruitment of a Consultant to a post.

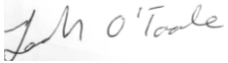
Table 3: Definition of Status

Approved: The post has been approved through the Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC) process.

Filled: The clinical site has verified that a Consultant currently occupies this post.

Vacant: Recruitment for the post may be underway but the clinical site has verified on DIME that this is currently a vacant post. An appointment may have been made to a number of these vacancies with a prospective start date. It should be noted that there is often a significant period of time between approval of a consultant post through CAAC to the commencement of the recruitment process and ultimately the recruitment of a Consultant to a post. The vacancy figure includes a combination of posts that have previously been filled but have become vacant and posts that have never been filled.

Yours sincerely,



Leah O'Toole

Assistant National Director