

CC/MMcN/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

16th May 2023

Mr Michael McNamara TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 20599/23

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 644 of 28 March 2023, the reason for the delay in issuing a response (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael McNamara

Details supplied: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a breakdown of whole-time equivalent (WTE) positions at University Hospital Limerick and within the UL Hospitals Group on 31 January 2020 and on 31 January 2023 by profession, in tabular form, to include consultants, non-consultant hospital doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals such as pharmacists, occupational therapists, radiographers, physiotherapists, accountants and administration personnel; if he will provide the number of said personnel employed via agencies; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McNamara,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

We would like to apologise for the delay in issuing this response as we were validating data requested. Please see below the number of WTE positions at University Hospital Limerick and UL Hospitals Group by specified profession on the 31st January 2020 and on the 31st January 2023 by profession:

	31/01/2020 ULHG	31/01/2023 ULHG	31/01/2020 UHL	31/01/2023 UHL
Consultants	165	204	125	155
Non Consultant Hospital Doctors	387	496	310	400
Pharmacists	26.30	33.5	24.20	28
Nursing/Midwifery	1,669	1,944	1,014	1,339
Occupational Therapists	8	21	8	21
Radiographers	68.76	93.56	58.5	75.04
Physiotherapists	45.84	62.25	33.25	43.1
Accountants	6	6	6	6
Admin Personnel	618	769	413	628

It is not possible to provide the number of said personnel employed via agencies for the timeframes requested as this information is not recorded in such a way that it can be easily generated. At times, there is a necessity to fill posts through an agency as per the HSE National Framework for Agency Services due to service requirements including short term leave such as sick leave and maternity leave leaving service gaps to be filled quickly.

As you are aware, the labour market is very competitive, particularly in the area of skilled medical personnel. This challenge is not unique to the HSE but rather is being felt on an international scale. Nonetheless, UL Hospitals is constantly recruiting for new development posts and filling any deficits which may have arisen having pioneered several initiatives to attract and retain staff and is continually committed to having a well-resourced workforce to support the patient needs of the Mid-West through HSE contracts.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group