



20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 49211/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of public health nurse positions in each CHO area, including the number of vacant PHN positions in each CHO area and the specific geographic areas within each CHO that currently have no PHN in place, in tabular form; and what interim measures are in place to ensure universal access to public health nurse services.**

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Dear Deputy O'Broin,

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

Please see the number of Public Health Nurses in each CHO area in the table below:

CHO Area	No of PHN's SEP 2023
CHO 1	187
CHO 2	210
CHO 3	154
CHO 4	263
CHO 5	195
CHO 6	115
CHO 7	203
CHO 8	252
CHO 9	214
<b>Total</b>	<b>1793</b>

In relation to your request seeking the number of PHN vacancies, there is no accepted definition of what a vacancy actually is. Data in relation to vacancies that are approved for replacement include New Development posts, retirements and resignations. However there can be other reasons posts are not filled (for example where there is long term sick leave, maternity leave, blocks of parental leave etc.), which may not be possible to gain budgetary approval to replace, although there may be a person assigned to such 'vacancies'/posts that are crucial to service delivery. However they are not an approved vacancy.

Because of the complexity of it, it is not possible to hold accurate data at a national level or give a definitive figure for vacancies as this information is not routinely collected in the manner sought.

All our employment data is available on the HSE Personnel Census, [here](#).

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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**Jacqueline Nix**

*Assistant National Director, HR Community Operations*