



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
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26 October 2023

Deputy Alan Farrell
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 46116/23: To ask the Minister for Health how many nurses were recruited in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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.

The Deputy will be interested to note that, employment levels at the end of September 2023, show there were 50,941 Nursing & Midwifery personnel (equating to 45,017 whole-time equivalents) directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 hospitals & agencies. This figure represents a 7,081 headcount (6,813 WTE) increase in employment levels over the years 2020 to 2023 (YTD). This growth is the net effect of newly appointed employees on one hand (including replacements) and leavers (including retirements and resignations) on the other and represents a 16% headcount increase.

Details as requested are set out in the following table:

Nursing & Midwifery	Total WTE	Total Headcount
Dec 2019	38,205	43,861
Dec 2020	39,917	45,603
Dec 2021	41,576	47,375
Dec 2022	43,619	49,295
Sep 2023	45,017	50,941
<i>change 2020</i>	+1,712	+1,742
<i>change 2021</i>	+1,660	+1,772
<i>change 2022</i>	+2,042	+1,920
<i>change YTD 2023 (30 September)</i>	+1,398	+1,646
Change 2020 to 2023	+6,813	+7,080
% Change 2020 to 2023	+17.8%	+16.1%

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

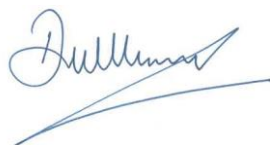
Note 3: Headcount is the number of individuals (Nurses & Midwives).

Despite the significant growth over the last number of years, the HSE fully understands the resourcing challenges that we face as we are operating in a fiercely competitive global recruitment market and it should be noted the demand and supply deficits for healthcare workers is not unique to the HSE. In addition to competition from abroad, there are many other factors which create challenges to the overall growth of our workforce including an ageing workforce, HRA reversal, accommodation and also the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic over the years in question. The on-boarding of nurses & midwives, in particular, is dependent on the ability of labour market supply at differing times of the year with many newly Irish trained nurses becoming available annually in the final quarter.

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