



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa  
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Swords,  
Co. Dublin, K67D8H0

8 April 2024

Deputy Colm Burke

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

**PQ 15363/23:** To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons employed within the health service, by categories (details supplied) for each year from 1 January 2014 to 29 February 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 February 2024 report a total workforce of 147,968 WTE (equating to 166,981 personnel) directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 hospitals & agencies.

Details as requested in tabular form for 31 December 2013 (the nearest available date to 1 January 2014) to 29 February by the current staff grouping (expanded from the details supplied as the reporting configuration has been updated to provide more detail) are set out in attached. It is important to point out that staffing figures are not directly comparable, particularly over extended periods, due not only to changes in demography and activity levels but also to changes in the configuration of our services. For example, the HSE has subsumed a number of section 38 *and* 39 *organisations*, on one hand, and conversely Tusla (*formerly the Child & Family Agency*) is now under the aegis of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration but included in the December 2013 figure.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Des Williams', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Des Williams

General Manager

## Health Service Staffing by Staff Group December 2013-2023 & February 2024

Staff Category/ Staff Group	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	Dec 2021	Dec 2022	Dec 2023	Feb 2024
<b>Total Health Service Staffing</b>	<b>104,082</b>	<b>103,030</b>	<b>107,275</b>	<b>110,258</b>	<b>114,297</b>	<b>117,857</b>	<b>119,813</b>	<b>126,174</b>	<b>132,322</b>	<b>137,745</b>	<b>145,985</b>	<b>147,968</b>
Consultants	2,555	2,635	2,724	2,862	2,971	3,096	3,250	3,458	3,608	3,869	4,246	4,296
Registrars	2,568	2,689	2,944	3,130	3,316	3,476	3,681	3,876	4,104	4,353	4,640	4,699
SHO/ Interns	2,439	2,708	2,870	2,930	3,014	3,076	3,115	3,594	3,587	3,661	4,089	4,008
Medical/ Dental, other	791	786	798	801	820	820	811	833	812	813	786	788
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>8,353</b>	<b>8,817</b>	<b>9,336</b>	<b>9,723</b>	<b>10,121</b>	<b>10,467</b>	<b>10,857</b>	<b>11,762</b>	<b>12,112</b>	<b>12,697</b>	<b>13,761</b>	<b>13,792</b>
Nurse/ Midwife Manager	6,254	6,602	6,947	7,279	7,434	7,799	7,986	8,344	8,851	9,345	9,910	9,938
Nurse/ Midwife Specialist & AN/MP	1,239	1,332	1,475	1,579	1,706	1,860	1,993	2,299	2,481	2,974	3,580	3,736
Staff Nurse/ Staff Midwife	24,541	24,423	24,749	24,768	25,315	25,595	25,687	26,763	27,850	28,757	30,355	30,970
Public Health Nurse	1,495	1,460	1,501	1,499	1,514	1,541	1,539	1,557	1,523	1,504	1,492	1,485
Nursing/ Midwifery Student	336	404	387	405	500	533	654	592	526	712	564	1,058
Nursing/ Midwifery other	313	289	295	305	308	317	350	362	344	327	345	362
<b>Nursing &amp; Midwifery</b>	<b>34,178</b>	<b>34,509</b>	<b>35,353</b>	<b>35,835</b>	<b>36,777</b>	<b>37,644</b>	<b>38,209</b>	<b>39,917</b>	<b>41,575</b>	<b>43,619</b>	<b>46,247</b>	<b>47,549</b>
Therapy Professions	4,058	4,254	4,540	4,823	5,057	5,232	5,232	5,565	5,947	6,320	6,700	6,719
Health Science/ Diagnostics	3,815	3,935	4,168	4,260	4,337	4,449	4,497	4,731	4,918	5,052	5,214	5,231
Social Care	3,076	1,908	2,070	2,321	2,467	2,607	2,710	2,909	3,127	3,171	3,221	3,222
Social Workers	2,329	969	1,071	1,130	1,148	1,172	1,166	1,238	1,296	1,430	1,559	1,622
Psychologists	786	815	887	921	964	985	1,004	1,066	1,095	1,120	1,238	1,254
Pharmacy	679	735	807	854	899	975	1,038	1,164	1,292	1,323	1,419	1,428
H&SC, Other	1,101	1,025	1,035	1,055	1,078	1,077	1,122	1,134	1,324	1,306	1,434	1,486
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>15,844</b>	<b>13,640</b>	<b>14,578</b>	<b>15,364</b>	<b>15,950</b>	<b>16,496</b>	<b>16,769</b>	<b>17,807</b>	<b>18,999</b>	<b>19,721</b>	<b>20,785</b>	<b>20,963</b>
Management (VIII & above)	1,111	1,186	1,327	1,445	1,610	1,747	1,845	1,969	2,216	2,446	2,539	2,558
Administrative/ Supervisory (V to VII)	3,680	3,621	3,794	4,051	4,450	4,857	5,205	5,821	6,705	7,737	8,887	8,943
Clerical (III & IV)	10,712	10,306	11,043	11,271	11,655	11,901	11,801	12,038	12,662	12,974	13,978	14,025
<b>Management &amp; Administrative</b>	<b>15,503</b>	<b>15,112</b>	<b>16,164</b>	<b>16,767</b>	<b>17,714</b>	<b>18,504</b>	<b>18,851</b>	<b>19,829</b>	<b>21,584</b>	<b>23,156</b>	<b>25,404</b>	<b>25,525</b>
Maintenance/ Technical Support	1,294	1,241	1,223	1,189	1,177	1,180	1,173	1,200	1,197	1,221	1,255	1,272
<b>General Support</b>	<b>9,700</b>	<b>9,419</b>	<b>9,494</b>	<b>9,448</b>	<b>9,454</b>	<b>9,454</b>	<b>9,305</b>	<b>9,876</b>	<b>10,010</b>	<b>10,134</b>	<b>10,157</b>	<b>10,241</b>
Health Care Assistants	12,500	13,628	14,644	15,545	16,223	17,092	17,508	18,554	19,326	19,309	20,255	20,424
Home Help	3,621	3,703	3,390	3,173	3,502	3,552	3,565	3,543	3,546	3,782	3,728	3,721
Ambulance Staff	1,546	1,556	1,601	1,640	1,745	1,782	1,828	1,877	1,936	1,932	2,104	2,175
Care, other	2,837	2,646	2,715	2,764	2,810	2,866	2,922	3,011	3,235	3,395	3,545	3,577
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>20,504</b>	<b>21,532</b>	<b>22,350</b>	<b>23,122</b>	<b>24,281</b>	<b>25,292</b>	<b>25,822</b>	<b>26,985</b>	<b>28,042</b>	<b>28,418</b>	<b>29,631</b>	<b>29,898</b>

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

\*Details supplied: Schedule: 1. Consultants; 2. Medical/other; 3. NCHDs; 4. Nurse Managers; 5. Nurse Specialists; 6. Staff Nurses; 7. Public Health Nurses; 8. Nursing Students; 9. Nursing/other; 10. Therapists; 11. Health and Social Care/Other; 12. Management; 13. Clerical and Administrative; 14. Ambulance; 15. Care Staff; 16. Support Services.