



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
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28 May 2024

Deputy Peadar Tóibín

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 21946/24: To ask the Minister for Health how many doctors have been employed in the health service in each of the last 15 years.

PQ 21947/24: To ask the Minister for Health how many dentists have been employed in the health service in each of the last 15 years.

Dear Deputy Tóibín

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions in relation to Medical & Dental staffing which was forwarded to the Health Services Executive (HSE) by the Department of Health for direct reply.

Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC) reports on direct employment in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 hospitals & agencies. Staff are reported on the basis of staff category with Medical & Dental, although they are distinct professions reported in a single high level classification. HSPC details at the end of April, show that there were 148,359 WTE (equating to 167,011 personnel) directly employed in the provision of our services and of which 13,886 WTE (14,983 individuals) or 9.4% were Medical & Dental personnel.

As requested by the Deputy, final year-end figures as reported for each of the past 15 years (31 December 2009 onwards) together with the latest available (30 April 2024), with medical & dental staff disaggregated on the basis of the current grade structure are as set out in the following table:

Medical & Dental Workforce: 2009-2024

Medical & Dental		Medical				Dental			
Date	Medical & Dental	Medical Consultants	Registrars	SHO/ Interns	Other Medical	Medical	Consultant Dentistry	Dentists	Dental
Dec 2009	8,083	2,303	2,552	2,327	499	7,682	13	388	401
Dec 2010	8,096	2,398	2,549	2,242	524	7,713	14	368	382
Dec 2011	8,331	2,461	2,602	2,410	495	7,968	13	350	363
Dec 2012	8,320	2,499	2,623	2,372	476	7,969	15	336	351
Dec 2013	8,353	2,540	2,568	2,439	469	8,016	16	322	337
Dec 2014	8,817	2,619	2,689	2,708	474	8,490	16	312	327
Dec 2015	9,336	2,709	2,944	2,870	482	9,005	15	316	331
Dec 2016	9,723	2,846	3,130	2,930	484	9,390	15	317	333
Dec 2017	10,121	2,954	3,316	3,014	507	9,792	16	313	329
Dec 2018	10,467	3,078	3,476	3,076	504	10,134	18	315	333
Dec 2019	10,857	3,233	3,681	3,115	500	10,529	17	311	328
Dec 2020	11,762	3,442	3,876	3,594	520	11,432	16	313	329
Dec 2021	12,112	3,592	4,104	3,587	498	11,781	16	315	331
Dec 2022	12,697	3,850	4,353	3,661	498	12,363	19	315	335
Dec 2023	13,761	4,224	4,640	4,089	476	13,428	22	310	333
Apr 2024	13,886	4,340	4,719	4,025	472	13,557	23	306	329

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

Note¹: 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 38 agencies)

Note²: Figures relating to service levels are expressed as whole-time equivalents (WTE) in order to take account of part-time working.

It is important to point out that while, these figures are set within a background of increasing staff numbers when compared to recent years, not all the information is directly comparable. As well as the impact of the economic crisis and global recession particularly in the years up to 2014, the HSE has for example subsumed various agencies and services as well transfers out to other agencies over the extended timeframe covered by this request. The unwinding of the financial emergency measures has in the recent reversal of the Haddington Road Agreement has also added to the requirement for additional staff to replace lost hours. There has been substantial service developments, coupled with the demands brought by an ageing population, significantly increased regulatory & legislative requirements, in addition to increased levels of care and the expansion of the workforce required in the immediate and enduring response to COVID-19. In more recent times the additional requirement to meet the needs of international migrants and refugees such as our Ukraine response has also driven demand.

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