



Pleanáil agus Faisnéis Straitéiseach d'Fhórsa
Ionad Gnó Shoid
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28 May 2024

Deputy Peadar Tóibín

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 21950/24: To ask the Minister for Health how many psychiatrists have been employed in the health service in each of the last 15 years.

Dear Deputy Tóibín

I refer to your recent parliamentary question 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 and staff group. HSPC details at the end of April, show that there were 4,363 WTE (equating to 4,712 personnel) Consultants directly employed in the provision of our services and of which 493 WTE (540 individuals) or 11.3 % were Consultant Psychiatry 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), are as set out in the following table:

Consultant Psychiatry: 2009-2024

Date	Consultant Psychiatry
Dec 2009	352
Dec 2010	364
Dec 2011	355
Dec 2012	356
Dec 2013	356
Dec 2014	351
Dec 2015	362
Dec 2016	362
Dec 2017	364
Dec 2018	374
Dec 2019	407
Dec 2020	422
Dec 2021	438
Dec 2022	449
Dec 2023	488
Apr 2024	493

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 also added to the requirement for additional staff to replace lost hours. There also 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