



**CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL  
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE**

CABHÁN CAVAN DÚN NA NGALL DONEGAL LIATROIM LEITRIM MUINEACHÁIN MONAGHAN SLIGEACH SLIGO

Ceannasáí Seirbhíse – Daoine Aosta  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Chabháin,  
Dhún na nGall, Liatroim, Mhuineacháin, Shligigh  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
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5<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

Deputy Pearse Doherty  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 41286/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of staffing levels over the past five years of each community hospital in Donegal, detailing any vacancies and the length of each vacancy, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Doherty

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

The establishment of Health Regions allows each area to plan and deliver services around the specific needs of people in each area, and to provide a consistent quality of care across the country. Each region has its own budget, leadership team and responsibility for local decision-making.

The HSE recruitment embargo ended on Monday 15th July 2024 with the release of a Pay and Numbers Strategy. This was approved by the Department of Health and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The HSE West North West Region has been provided with its own specified number of WTEs and we can, within that approved number, replace, recruit and prioritise posts. This provides greater flexibility for Health Regions and national services to respond to the needs of the population and prioritise posts appropriately.

Furthermore for consideration across a number of Community Hospitals/ Units in Donegal, significant refurbishment works are underway which includes essential fire safety works. This has resulted in temporary bed closures in a number of Units. The Service continues to monitor the impact of these works on service delivery which includes the associated staffing levels required to provide a safe level of care in line with Regulatory Compliance



Taking the above factors into account the table below provides the WTE as at December, 2023 and September, 2024

**Staff levels WTE community hospitals in Co. Donegal**

	<b>December 2023 WTE</b>	<b>September 2024</b>
<b>Ballyshannon CH</b>	71.57	97.67
<b>Buncrana CH</b>	44.94	40.60
<b>Carndonagh CH</b>	66.67	61.12
<b>Donegal CH</b>	47.6	40.53
<b>Dungloe CH</b>	50.55	49.75
<b>Falcarragh CH</b>	52.14	45.22
<b>Killybegs CH</b>	44.33	39.98
<b>Ramelton CH</b>	40.64	39.69
<b>St. Joseph's CH/Lifford</b>	108.64	104.49

The Health Regions have been actively working to fill posts via Agency conversion, new Development Posts and vacancies arising in 2024 from retirements, resignations and promotions, in the context of the agreed Pay and Numbers Strategy for 2024 and WTE limits applicable. The service is continuing to examine opportunities to prioritise recruitment to the above grades in this context and in order to respond to the needs of the population.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Frank Morrison**  
**Head of Service Older Persons**