

9th May 2025

Deputy Pádraig Rice,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 16302/25

“To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent by the HSE on agency staffing in each of the years from 2019 to 2024 and to date in 2025, in the acute mental health unit at Cork University Hospital; and the staff categories these relate to, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Rice,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE hires agency staff to ensure patient safety and maintain service delivery, particularly during staffing shortages, unplanned absences, or in areas with recruitment challenges. Agency workers provide essential flexibility and specialist skills, helping to uphold care standards and legal staffing requirements. While this approach supports continuity of care, it also presents financial challenges, prompting ongoing efforts to reduce reliance on agency staffing.

Staff Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	YTD March 2025
Admin	111,043	37,113	90,498	128,063	243,835	258,149	86,640
Housekeeping	0	0	0	0	0	1,060	0
Medical	64,248	145,145	14,564	31,760	97,936	118,756	8,588
Nursing	197,726	193,251	286,229	611,168	520,798	622,169	118,256
TOTAL	373,017	375,509	391,291	770,991	862,569	1,000,134	213,484

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Declan Cronin
Acting Head of Service
Mental Health Services