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14th May, 2025

Mr. Thomas Gould., T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 18814/25

" To ask the Minister for Health the number of roles sanctioned and number filled, by discipline, in primary care in Cork, in tabular form"

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

As you may be aware, the HSE recruitment embargo was lifted on the 15th July 2024 and the HSE South West is now operating under the Pay and Numbers Strategy 2024. In line with our approved WTE ceiling, the Senior Leadership Team, as part of the post prioritisation process, are reviewing all vacant posts with a particular focus on frontline posts where services have long waiting times.

Please see below, in tabular form, the number of posts sanctioned through the Workforce Prioritisation Process for Primary Care, HSE South West. This data is correct as at 7th May 2025.

Posts Approved through Workforce Prioritisation Process – Primary Care, HSE South West, as at 07/05/2025	
Staff Category	Number of Posts Approved by WTE
Health & Social Care Professionals	154.75
Nursing	112.92
Clerical & Management Admin	50.23
Medical/Dental	7.61
Support Staff	1.02
Total	326.53 WTE

Efforts to increase resources throughout and reduce waiting times are indeed our top priority. The above posts are in various stages of recruitment, with many already filled.

Notwithstanding the above, we are experiencing challenges with the filling of some posts in certain disciplines of staff. Posts approved for filling are being progressed by way of National HSE panels for Senior, Staff Grade and Assistant grades where relevant. If necessary, where posts are unable to fill from the National Recruitment Service (NRS), local temporary recruitment is taking place. Additionally, strategies such as training pathways, additional trainee places, advertising via universities to graduates of professional programmes, and exploration of international recruits where relevant are all being evoked to help bridge this gap.

Seirbhís sláinte a thógáil a bhfuil ár bpobal bródúil aisti
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If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mari O'Donovan
Interim Head of Service - Primary Care,
HSE South West