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11 February 2025

Deputy Alan Kelly Dáil Éireann Leinster House Dublin 2

PQ 3762/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of carers employed by the HSE in the years of 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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

The Deputy will be interested to note that at the end of December 2024, employment levels show there were 148,268 whole-time equivalent staff (equating to 166,104 personnel) directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and Section 38 hospitals & agencies and of which 24,217 WTE (or 29,000 individuals. The Deputy will be interested to note that this figure represent a combined 1,126 WTE or 1,690 headcount increase over the 2023/ 2024 period.

Details showing as WTE and headcount figures by care group are as set out in the following table:

Health Services Staffing: Health Care Assistants

| Health Care Assistants | WTE DEC 2022 | WTE DEC 2023 | WTE DEC 2024 | WTE change since Dec 2022 | No. DEC 2022 | No. DEC 2023 | No. DEC 2024 | headcount change since Dec 2022 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Total Health Care Assistants | 23,091 | 23,982 | 24,217 | +1,126 | 27,683 | 28,658 | 29,000 | +1,690 |
| Acute Services | 6,217 | 6,735 | 6,597 | +380 | 6987 | 7487 | 7354 | +252 |
| Community Health & Wellbeing | 6 | 3 | 3 | -4 | 9 | 3 | 3 | -6 |
| Mental Health | 1,030 | 1,111 | 1,045 | +15 | 1,115 | 1,192 | 1,126 | -61 |
| Primary Care | 481 | 444 | 501 | +20 | 601 | 538 | 619 | +103 |
| Disabilities | 7,575 | 7,947 | 8,493 | +918 | 9,211 | 9,662 | 10,349 | +1,785 |
| Older People | 7,759 | 7,726 | 7,565 | -194 | 9,735 | 9,758 | 9,534 | -371 |
| CHO Operations | 6 | 2 | | -6 | 6 | 2 | | -7 |
| Community Services | 16,857 | 17,233 | 17,606 | +749 | 20677 | 21155 | 21631 | +1,443 |
| National Central & Services | 17 | 15 | 13 | -3 | 19 | 16 | 15 | -5 |

Source: Health Service Personnel Census

Note ¹: 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 agencies)

Note²: Figures relating to service levels are expressed as whole-time equivalents (WTE) and calculated to 2 decimals in order to take account of part-time working

Workforce reports are available through the Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC), which is the official employment count for the public health service and published on a monthly basis. Figures in respect of January 2025 are not yet available but will be published in the near future. The latest available employment information is routinely published <u>here</u>.

I trust that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.

Yours sincerely,

Des Williams

General Manager