



Deputy Seán Crowe,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

2nd September 2025

PQ Number: 41736/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of posts in perinatal mental health services per CHO area; and the number of posts filled and the number of vacancies, in tabular form. -Seán Crowe

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The *Model of Care for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services* (2017) provides for the development of a national network of services, including six hub sites and thirteen spoke sites which are now in operation. In line with this Model of Care, the development of a specialist Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) on the campus of St Vincent's University Hospital is being progressed.

The Model of Care provides for 73 whole-time equivalent (WTE) posts nationally. Each of the six hub teams consists of 8 WTE multidisciplinary staff and is led by a consultant psychiatrist, with 2 midwives also based in each hub. Thirteen spoke sites are supported by their hub teams and each has a dedicated midwife in place.

As services are structured and reported through the hub-and-spoke model, information is not collated on a CHO basis.

In line with the Model of Care, full staffing requires 73 WTEs nationally. As of 2024, 69.5 WTEs were in place, with a shortfall of 3.5 WTEs. This reflects six vacant posts in the context of some sites having staffing above baseline. Recruitment is ongoing to ensure the full complement of posts is achieved and maintained.

The national position is summarised below:

Approved WTEs	In place	Vacant
73	69.5	6*



*Vacancies are shown at national level. Some sites are staffed above baseline, which offsets this figure.

I trust this information is of assistance to you

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive