



Limistéar Sláinte Comhtháite Bhaile Átha Cliath Chathair Theas & Thiar,
Bhaile Átha Cliath Thiar Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

Head of Primary Care
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21/08/2025.

Deputy Liam Quaide
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 42263/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of public health nurses in the Dublin southwest Integrated Health Area and the number of vacancies; and the details of recruitment to these roles in each of the years 2022 to 2024 and to date in 2025, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Quaide,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive can confirm

Dublin South West IHA	PHN	Vacancies
2022	47.82	6.3
2023	51.12	8
2024	34.38	6.5
2025	31.62	6.34

The recruitment and retention of PHNs remains a challenge particularly the greater Dublin area. A number of short-term temporary solutions have been undertaken to prioritise resources. These include integrating services, reorganisation of work, engagement with the Graduate Nurse Scheme to fill vacant positions, and in some cases the redeployment of staff - these efforts continue. Where staff shortages arise, the HSE continues to prioritise and support patients who have the greatest need in the community.

A number of measures have recently been agreed to support increased intake to the Student Public Health Nursing programme. This includes development of partnerships between acute hospitals and community partners to provide graduate nurses with opportunity for a clinical rotation to the community and also to initiate a similar opportunity for experienced registered nurses working within hospitals. This development is in its infancy but is one of a number of measures which will improve the Public Health Nursing workforce into the future.

The HSE continue to review service needs and prioritise services for recruitment in line with the HSE's Pay and Numbers strategy, and recruitment will progress as approvals are received. Every effort will be made to improve access and reduce waiting lists for the local population in line with this strategy.

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

Yours sincerely,

Brian Kearney
Head of Primary Care
Dublin South City & West, Dublin South West, Kildare & West Wicklow Integrated Healthcare Areas, HSE Dublin & Midlands