



23rd July 2025

Deputy Marie Sherlock TD,

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 42651/25:

To ask the Minister for Health the legal minimum staffing ratio of health care assistants to nursing home resident in a nursing home – Marie Sherlock

There is currently no standardized national staffing ratio and skill mix in HSE CNU's. A safer staffing pilot is currently testing an evidence-based model of safe nurse staffing and skill mix in long term residential care settings for older people. The Chief Nursing Office in the Department of Health are coordinating the work. The pilot is focused on staffing levels based on acuity of care required by the resident. This work may further inform the appropriate staff skill mix requirements for long term residential care for older persons.

The legislative requirements for staffing ratios and skill mix is set out in S.I. No. 415/2013 – Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2013 as follows and applies to both public and private nursing homes;

(7) Where the Chief Inspector is satisfied that no resident of the designated centre concerned has been assessed as requiring full time nursing care, paragraphs (3) and (6) do not apply to the person in charge of that centre.

Staffing

15. (1) The registered provider shall ensure that the number and skill mix of staff is appropriate having regard to the needs of the residents, assessed in accordance with Regulation 5, and the size



and layout of the designated centre concerned.

(2) The person in charge shall ensure that the staff of a designated centre includes, at all times, at least one registered nurse.

(3) Where the Chief Inspector is satisfied that no resident of the designated centre concerned has been assessed in accordance with Regulation 5 as requiring full time nursing care, paragraph (2) does not apply to the staff of that centre.

I trust this information is of assistance to you,

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Whelehan

AND Services for Older People

National Office, Access and Integration