



12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Deputy Pádraig Rice TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 42789/25** - *To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE nurses working in chemotherapy wards in each of the relevant hospitals managed by Dublin Midlands Hospital Group; how this compares to optimum staffing levels; and if she will make a statement on the matter.*

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Dear Deputy Rice,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted for response.

Apologies for the delay in responding.

The following information has been provided by the five acute hospital sites and Children's Health Ireland outlining the current nursing staff providing chemotherapy within HSE Dublin and Midlands;

**Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore**

Funded WTE - 19 WTE for the Oncology Inpatient Unit (including Safe Staffing Framework).  
Funded WTE – 11.68 WTE for the Oncology Day Unit.

**Naas General Hospital**

Funded WTE - 4.91 nursing (0.8 staff on careers leave and 1 WTE pending recruitment). Of these, 3.32 WTE are qualified to administer chemotherapy. Two additional WTE CNS work between Oncology and Hematology.

**Tallaght University Hospital**

Total WTE - 47.6 Staff Nurses total for the inpatient and outpatient services, 2 ANPS, 3 CNM2, 8 CNS. The Safer Staffing Framework in place for the inpatient service.

**St James's Hospital**

Total WTE – 25 nurses working in chemotherapy services for ambulatory care patients. 129 WTE for inpatient wards as per safe staffing tool (including 25 WTE ambulatory service).

**SLRON**

Total WTE – 5 (including 1 CNM2). Current campaigns ongoing for CNM1 and staff nurse posts.

**Children's Health Ireland**

CHI have a total complement of 82.48 WTE nurses working in the oncology unit, (inclusive of wards, OPDS and day units in CHI). This care is provided by varying grades of nursing staff inclusive of staff nurses, nurse managers, nurse specialists and advanced nurse practitioners. They note that there are no agreed Safe Staffing levels for Children's Nursing in Ireland but they are currently undertaking research on a Safe staffing tool which is recognised in many children's hospitals in the UK and Canada. The Chief Nursing officer in the Dept Of Health has been supportive with this piece of work.



Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Réigiúnach  
Baile Átha Cliath agus Lár Tíre

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The Framework for Safe Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix is a systematic, triangulated, evidence-based approach to determine nurse staffing (including both the nurse and healthcare assistant roles) and skill mix, based on patient acuity and dependency. The Framework is applied to general and specialist medical and surgical inpatient settings in adult hospitals (including Oncology inpatient wards) and Adult Emergency Departments.

I trust this information is of use to you. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms. Kate Killeen White**  
Regional Executive Officer  
Dublin and Midlands