



Príomhoifigeach Daoine

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
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Chief People Officer

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Jen Cummins, (TD)

25 June 2025

PQ 29543 25 (Health) – To ask the Minister for Health if staffing levels of public health nurses have increased in the past twelve months; and if she will make a statement on the matter. - Jen Cummins

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response.

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

Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC) reports on direct employment in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and the various Section 38 hospitals & agencies. Staff are reported on the basis of staff category and staff group. For the purposes of this PQ the relevant staff group is Public Health Nurse. HSPC details at the end of April 2025, show that were 149,045 WTE (equating to 167,536 personnel) directly employed in the provision of our services and of which 1,497 WTE (equating to 1,785 personnel) were classified as Public Health Nurse.

Details of Public Health Nurse WTE and headcount by region at April 2024 and April 2025 as requested by the Deputy are set out in the attached table. The data reports an overall increase in the number of Public Health Nurses at +19 WTE over the last comparable 12-month period as set out in Table 1.

Workforce reports are available through the Health Services Personnel Census (HSPC), which is the official employment count for the public health service. The latest published information is routinely published [here](#).

The deputy may be interested to know, there is a national oversight committee in place (Community Nursing Oversight Group) who are responsible for overseeing the implementation of several recommendations directly linked to enhance the positive impact of recruitment and retention of public health nursing.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR

Public Health Nurse WTE Apr 24 and Apr 25

Region	Apr 2024 WTE	Apr 2025 WTE	WTE Change over 12 months	Apr 2024 HC	Apr 2025 HC	HC Change over 12 months
Total Public Health Nurse	1,478	1,497	+19	1,771	1,785	+14
HSE Dublin & Midlands	262	261	-1	310	305	-5
HSE Dublin & North East	329	324	-5	397	388	-9
HSE Dublin & South East	260	264	+4	309	313	+4
HSE Midwest	121	130	+9	149	154	+5
HSE South West	207	214	+7	265	277	+12
HSE West & North West	296	303	+7	337	346	+9
HSE Centre	3	2	-1	4	2	-2

Table 1