



Príomhoifigeach Daoine

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8

Chief People Officer

Health Service Executive,
Dr Steevens' Hospital,
Dublin 8, D08 W2A8

www.hse.ie
@hselive

t 01 635 2319
e nationalhr@hse.ie

Mr. Michael Cahill, TD

13 June 2025

PQ 30972/25 (Health): To ask the Minister for Health if the recruitment embargo can be lifted from the health services, particularly additional staff reductions due to retirements, resignations, and so on; and if she will make a statement on the matter. - Michael Cahill

Dear Deputy,

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

By way of a follow-up response to PQ 19613/25 issued to your office on the 6th June 2025.

The HSE finalised its Pay and Numbers Strategy in July 2024 following detailed discussion with the Department of Health and the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. There is now a new approved maximum Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) staff figure for the HSE and Section 38 Agencies of 129,753. (This excluded disability services provided by the HSE and its S38 Organisations in that sector, pre-registration nursing and midwifery students, and 76 special assignment temporary posts).

Each of the six HSE Health Regions and each national service have been allocated with their own specified number of WTEs, and can within that approved number, replace, recruit and prioritise posts. This provides greater flexibility for Health Regions and national services to respond to the needs of the population and prioritise decisions on the filling of posts, with those decisions made closer to the point of service delivery. This includes in respect of attritional staff reductions due to retirements, resignations and so on. Finally, it is important to confirm there is currently no recruitment embargo in place within the HSE.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR