



IC/CC/MC

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23 April 2025

Deputy Cathal Crowe,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 11360/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of grade 3 and grade 4 clerical support staff positions that have been vacant in University Hospital Limerick, Ennis General Hospital and Nenagh General Hospital since the start of the HSE recruitment embargo; the number of of these positions have been temporarily filled with agency staff; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Cathal Crowe

Dear Deputy Crowe,

I refer to your correspondence dated 6th March 2025.

HSE Mid West operates under the auspices of the national HSE Pay and Numbers Strategy 2024, where WTE (wholetime equivalent) baseline ceilings are founded on the 31st December 2023 position.

The HSE Pay and Numbers Strategy has been approved by the Department of Health and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Under the strategy, the HSE Mid West Region has been provided with its own specified number of WTEs and can, within that approved number, replace, recruit and prioritise posts. This provides greater flexibility for health regions to respond to the needs of the population and prioritise posts appropriately. Recruitment is ongoing across all staff categories in the HSE Mid West.

The below table sets out the current level of Grade III and Grade IV posts in University Hospital Limerick, Ennis Hospital and Nenagh Hospital. Please note that positive values in the variance column denote where the numbers in post are above the current funded ceiling. Negative values denote vacancies.

The management of vacancies that arise, both temporary and permanent is a challenge that is actively addressed through continuous monitoring of the WTE value. Staff are deployed based on service need across an integrated group of hospitals. It is not possible to provide the number of clerical agency staff in place as the use of agency staff is determined on critical service needs and fluctuates each month.

Staff Category	WTE	WTE	Variance
	Dec-23	Feb-25	
Grade III	326.04	272.68	-53.36
Grade IV	145.89	184.17	38.28



I trust this clarifies the position. Please contact me if you have any further queries.

Kind Regards,

IAN CARTER
CEO Mid West Acute and Older People Services
HSE Mid West