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31st March, 2025

Mr. Pa Daly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 11561/25

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of full-time public health nurse posts within CHO4, in 2023 and 2024; the specific geographic area within CHO4 that currently has no public health nurse in place; and if she will make a statement on the matter"

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Please see below table highlighting the Number of Public Health Nurse in WTE:

The Number of Public Health Nurse in WTE					
	North Cork	North Lee	South Lee	West Cork	Kerry
2023	39	62	64.7	22.75	50
2024	39.87 inclusive of 4 WTE student PHNs	43	65.4	23.0	41

In North Cork, there are 4 vacant Public Health Nurse post currently in Mallow, Charleville and Kanturk. The vacancy in Mallow is based in the Primary Care Centre and carry out child development and first visits. In this instance cross cover is being provided by the Community Registered General Nurse taking the caseload. In Charleville and Kanturk, cross cover is being implemented for child development and first visits by Public Health Nurse with Community Registered General Nurse's covering older persons.

In North Lee, there is 12 areas without a Public Health, these areas include Youghal, Midleton Templeboden/Lisgould, Cobh, Glouthane/ Little Island, Mayfield, Carrignavvar, St. Patricks, Knocknaheeny, Kerry Pike, City Centre, Farranferris and Sundays Well. The vacancies within these areas cross cover is provided for facilitating child health and Registered General Nurses are covering for adults and older person services

In South Lee, there is currently 5 Public Health Nurse Vacancies. These areas will not be without a Public Health Nursing service as in the event of vacancies cross cover is provided.

In West Cork, there is 1 vacant public health nurse within this area cross cover is provided.

In Kerry, there are 9 vacant Public Health Nurse posts currently in Dingle, Ardfert, Ballybunion, Castleisland, Kenmare/Killarney and Tralee. Please note that 7 of these posts have been approved for filing from the student sponsorship programme which commences in 2025. The Department of Public Health Nursing in Kerry mitigates against these vacancies via cross cover by PHN or RGN within the services.



As outlined above, to ensure continuity of care, our Public Health Nurses are supported by highly skilled Community Registered Nurses (RGNs), and cross-cover arrangements are in place to support areas experiencing staffing challenges. Public Health Nurses undergo specialised training, and recruitment campaigns are conducted annually to maintain service provision.

I wish to reassure you that all PHN services are being completed within appropriate clinical timeframes through cross-cover arrangements, ensuring that children and families continue to receive the care they need.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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