

**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí  
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Mr. Tom Brabazon, TD

07 April 2025

**PQ 13659/25 (Health) - To ask the Minister PQ 13659/25 (Health): To ask the Minister for Health the total number of social workers currently employed in the HSE and HSE-funded hospitals and social care services, the number of social workers currently employed in each level 4, level 3 and level 2 hospital in each of the six new HSE regions: the comparable number employed in 2020; and her plans to expand social work services in the community.**

Dear Deputy,

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

The Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence Unit within National HR have provided the following data.

Table 1 showing Social Workers currently employed in the HSE and HSE-funded hospitals and social care services and comparable number employed in 2020.

Table 2 provides the number of social workers currently employed in each level 4, level 3 and level 2 hospital in each of the six new HSE regions; the comparable number employed in 2020.

Please note that Health regions did not exist in 2020, but this table has been built to show the comparable as per the PQ.

**Table 1**

**Total number of social workers currently employed in the HSE and HSE-funded hospitals and social care services**

Social Workers Dec 2020 to Feb 2025	WTE DEC 2020	WTE FEB 2025	WTE change since Dec 2020	No. DEC 2020	No. FEB 2025	HC Change since Dec 2020
Total Social Workers	1,238	1,594	+355	1391	1,772	+381

**Table 2**

**Social workers currently employed in each level 4, level 3 and level 2 hospital in each of the six new HSE regions; the comparable number employed in 2020**

Health Region	Hospital	Hospital Model	WTE DEC 2020	WTE FEB 2025	WTE change since Dec 2020	No. DEC 2020	No. FEB 2025	HC Change since Dec 2020
<b>Total Social Workers by Models 2, 3 and 4 Hospitals</b>			<b>264</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>+99</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>+113</b>
HSE Dublin & Midlands	MRH Mullingar	Model 3		1	+1		1	+1
HSE Dublin & Midlands	MRH Portlaoise	Model 3		1	+1		1	+1
HSE Dublin & Midlands	MRH Tullamore	Model 3		2	+2		3	+3
HSE Dublin & Midlands	Naas General	Model 3	3	7	+4	3	7	+4
HSE Dublin & Midlands	St. James's	Model 4	46	52	+7	50	60	+10
HSE Dublin & Midlands	Tallaght University	Model 4	24	27	+4	25	30	+5
HSE Dublin & North East	Cavan General	Model 3	1	3	+3	1	4	+3
HSE Dublin & North East	Connolly	Model 3	12	12	+0	13	14	+1
HSE Dublin & North East	Our Lady of Lourdes	Model 3	12	16	+4	15	18	+3
HSE Dublin & North East	Our Lady's Navan	Model 3		1	+1		1	+1
HSE Dublin & North East	Beaumont	Model 4	32	39	+7	35	45	+10
HSE Dublin & North East	Mater Misericordiae University	Model 4	25	38	+14	25	40	+15
HSE Dublin & South East	St. Columcille's	Model 2	6	5	-2	7	6	-1
HSE Dublin & South East	St. Michael's	Model 2	4	4	+0	4	4	0
HSE Dublin & South East	South Tipperary General	Model 3	3	3	0	3	3	0
HSE Dublin & South East	St Luke's General Kilkenny	Model 3		3	+3		4	+4
HSE Dublin & South East	Wexford General	Model 3	1	4	+3	1	4	+3
HSE Dublin & South East	St. Vincent's University	Model 4	21	28	+7	22	31	+9
HSE Dublin & South East	UH Waterford	Model 4	4	7	+3	4	8	+4
HSE Midwest	UH Limerick	Model 4	10	14	+4	11	15	+4
HSE South West	Mallow General	Model 2		1	+1		1	+1
HSE South West	South Infirmary Victoria University	Model 2	3	4	+1	3	4	+1
HSE South West	Mercy University	Model 3	8	10	+2	9	10	+1
HSE South West	UH Kerry	Model 3	2	6	+4	2	7	+5
HSE South West	Cork University	Model 4	17	19	+2	23	22	-1
HSE West & North West	Roscommon University	Model 2	1	2	+2	1	3	+2
HSE West & North West	Letterkenny University	Model 3	1	3	+2	1	3	+2
HSE West & North West	Mayo University	Model 3	5	7	+3	5	8	+3
HSE West & North West	Portlincula University	Model 3	4	5	+1	4	5	+1
HSE West & North West	Sligo University	Model 3		3	+3		3	+3
HSE West & North West	Galway University	Model 4	21	35	+14	23	38	+15

Regarding plans to expand these posts within the community. We contacted our Access and Integration Division who confirmed they linked with the Health & Social Care Professions (HSCP) Function seeking input from the Chief Social Worker. Their response was they are unable to comment on the Ministers plan to expand the social work workforce in the community but can confirm their office is working with the Dept of Health Older Persons Unit to plan for the publication of a new policy for adult safeguarding and the social work and other resource implications of implementation across the health and social care sector.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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Mairéad Ryan  
National HR