



Príomhoifigeach Daoine

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
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Mr. John Connolly, TD

09 May 2025

PQ 21943/25- To ask the Minister for Health the minimum qualification required by health care assistants employed to work in public hospitals; the number of healthcare assistants employed in our public hospitals; the number that are directly employed by the HSE; the number who recruited through agency; and if she will make a statement on the matter. - John Connolly

Dear Deputy,

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

The HSE employ Health Care Assistants across both acute and community services. The eligibility criteria to work in one of our Public Hospitals is as outlined below. Candidates must have at the closing date for receipt of applications:

The relevant health skills QQI (formerly FETAC) level 5 qualification

OR

An equivalent relevant health care qualification or a comparable healthcare qualification as outlined in the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) NARIC Ireland framework

OR

Be currently employed as a Health Care Assistant or a comparable role.

AND

Candidates must have the personal competence and capacity to properly discharge the duties of the role.

As at March 2025 the HSE employed 17,033 individuals as Health Care Assistants into 14,278 WTE. In our acute hospital services, there were 7,391 Health Care Assistants employed across 6,634 WTE. Unfortunately, there is no information on the number of staff recruited through agency.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR