

**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
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Mr. Peadar Tóibín, TD

23 May 2025

**PQ 24055/25 (Health) - To ask the Minister for Health the number of Irish-qualified nurses recruited by the HSE
In each of the past ten years and to date in 2025 - Peadar Tóibín**

Dear Deputy,

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

I must advise the HSE does not have access to the level of information requested, as prior to 2023 this information was not recorded either locally or centrally and therefore would be an expensive manual exercise to undertake. However, it should be noted that there has been substantial increase in the headcount of the Nursing and Midwifery workforce in the past five years.

The HSE census, as of the end of March records a headcount of 54,216, which equates to a whole time equivalent of 48,389. This is an increase in headcount of 10,347 from the 31st of December 2019, which equates to a wte increase of 9,884.

The HSE actively recruits nationally and internationally to build our nursing and midwifery workforce, but retention of our Irish trained graduate nurses is key. To this end, over the last number of years the HSE has mandated the early recruitment of Irish trained nursing and midwifery graduates.

The monitoring of graduate nurses and midwives from Irish colleges being offered and accepting commenced in 2023. The reported data is as follows:

Service	N&M Graduates offered contracts in 2023	N&M Graduates accepted contracts in 2023	N&M Graduates offered contracts in 2024	N&M Graduates accepted contracts in 2024
General	1144	937	1182	890
Disabilities	107	92	283	223
Mental Health	274	232	51	21
Children's Disabilities			91	77
Total	1525	1261	1607	1211
% Difference in 2024			5% increase in contracts offered 2024	4% decrease acceptance rate in 2024

It should be noted that in 2023, the uptake of permanent offers was 83% and the health service seen a slight decrease in 2024, which is largely a result of the employment control measures, but we remain hopeful that the numbers will increase in 2025.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR