

**Príomhoifigeach Daoine**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí  
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Mr. Johnny Mythen, TD

29 May 2025

**PQ 24917/25 (Health) – To ask the Minister for Health the steps she is taking to address the non-filling and delayed filling of vacant and suppressed posts, which is leading to unsafe staffing levels in nursing and midwifery; and if she will make a statement on the matter - Johnny Mythen**

Dear Deputy,

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

The HSE finalised its Pay and Numbers Strategy in July 2024 following detailed discussion with the Department of Health and the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. There is now a new approved maximum Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) staff figure for the HSE and Section 38 Agencies of 129,753. (This excludes disability services provided by the HSE and its S38 Organisations in that sector, pre-registration nursing and midwifery students, and 76 special assignment temporary posts).

Each of the six HSE Health Regions and each national service have been allocated with their own specified number of WTEs, and they can, within that approved number, replace, recruit and prioritise posts. This provides greater flexibility for Health Regions and national services to respond to the needs of the population and prioritise posts appropriately.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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Mairéad Ryan  
National HR