



23 October 2025

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Barry Ward

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Re: PQ54314/25 - To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of spending by her Department on breastfeeding supports, in tabular form, by year, since 2022; how this funding was distributed by CHO and maternity hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The HSE received additional funding to provide breastfeeding supports within core maternity and primary care services in the years 2022 and 2025.

The 2022 funding of €1.58m was provided to appoint 24 additional infant feeding/lactation posts.

In 2025, total funding of €0.69m was provided with the following breakdown: €0.39m for 5 additional infant feeding/lactation posts and €0.3m for breast pumps.

Allocation of the funding across CHO and Maternity hospitals is outlined below:

Maternity service/CHO	2022 WTE allocation	Posts filled	2025 WTE allocation	2025 funding for breast pumps
CHI	1	yes	1	40,000
UMHL	1	yes		10,000
CUMH	1.5	yes		10,000
UHG	1	yes		24,000
Portiuncula				10,000
Cavan Maternity Unit	0.5	yes		
MRH Mullingar	0.5	yes		
NMH	1.5	yes		10,000
CWUHU	0.5	yes		10,000
The Rotunda	2	yes		



CHO1	1.5	yes		30,000
CHO2	2.5	yes		26,000
CHO4	1.5	0.5WTE x 2 (North Cork & Kerry) lost to pay and numbers strategy. Both areas allocated 0.5 PHN hours as an interim measure.		
CHO5	1.5	yes	0.5	42,000
CHO6	0.5	yes		33,000
CHO7	2.5	2WTE in post. 0.5 WTE in West Dublin lost to pay and numbers strategy.	1.5	10,000
CHO8	2.5	yes	1	
CHO9	2	yes	1	45,000
Totals	24		5	300,000

If you require any further information or clarification, please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John Cuddihy

National Director of Public Health

MCRN: 16227