



4 November 2025

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Sorca Clarke

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Re: PQ56521/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the current budget allocation for lactation consultants, breastfeeding clinics and community based peer support programmes; and the number this compares to previous years. -Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke

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 information requested in PQ 56519/25 issued to Deputy Sorca Clarke provides an update on budget allocation on core breastfeeding supports within maternity, paediatric and primary care services, new lactation posts, promotion and training supports from 2020 to 2025.

Midwives and public health nurses provide antenatal education and postnatal supports through clinic and group-based services. It is not possible to separate out a specific breastfeeding budget allocation from the wider service provision provided by midwifery and PHN services.

The HSE provide annual grant funding for training of volunteers and lactation consultants to 4 breastfeeding organisations: La Leche League, Cuidiú, friends of breastfeeding and the Association of Lactation Consultants of Ireland. The table below outlines the allocation of peer support funding from 2020-2025.

BREAKDOWN OF BREASTFEEDING ALLOCATION						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Grants to breastfeeding organisations	€83,925.00	€83,925.00	€82,963.00	€92,500.00	€95,500.00	€95,500.00

Table 1: Allocation of funding breastfeeding organisations.

There are currently 60.68 dedicated infant feeding/lactation wte in the HSE, with a further 10 wte in recruitment. The table below outlines the breakdown of infant feeding/lactation posts within the HSE and associated budget allocation for 2025 and for 2023.

	WTE in post 2023	WTE in post 2025	WTE in recruitment 2025
Total WTE	59.1	60.68	10.01
Budget allocation	€4.3m	€4.9m	€0.8m

Table 2: Allocation of Infant Feeding/lactation WTE in 2023 and 2025



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

Yours sincerely,

Dr John Cuddihy

National Director of Public Health

MCRN: 16227